Los Angeles Times

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NBC chief departs under a cloud

Jeff Shell quits, saying he had 'inappropriate relationship' with a female employee.

By Meg James

NBCUniversal Chief Executive Jeff Shell has stepped down after three years in the top role due to "an inappropriate relationship," parent company Comcast Corp. announced Sunday, making him the latest high-powered Hollywood player to lose his job over misconduct.

Comcast said in a statement that the company and Shell "mutually agreed" that he would depart effective immediately, after an investigation into inappropriate behavior led by outside counsel.

"Today is my last day as CEO of NBCUniversal," Shell said in a statement. "I had an inappropriate relationship with a woman in the company, which I deeply regret. I'm truly sorry I let my Comcast and NBCUniversal colleagues down, they are the most talented people in the business and the opportunity to work with them the last 19 years has been a privilege."

Comcast does not plan to immediately start a search for Shell's successor.

Instead, Comcast President Mike Cavanagh will take over Shell's senior executive team and lead the entertainment company in the interim, Comcast CEO Brian Roberts and Cavanagh said in a note to employees.

Nine executives, including Donna Langley, Mark Lazarus and Frances Berwick, had reported to Shell.

"We are disappointed to share this news with you," Roberts and Cavanagh said in the memo. "We built this company on a culture of integrity. Nothing is more important than how we treat each other. You should count on your leaders to create a safe and respectful workplace."

The nature of the inappropriate relationship was

[See **NBCUniversal,** A8]

Robert Gauthier Los Angeles Times

A FLOODED VINEYARD in Corcoran, where a levee system is struggling to hold back water from snowmelt.

WILL MELTED SNOW DROWN TOWN?

An aging wall of dirt is all that's preventing floodwaters from inundating Corcoran.

By Jessica Garrison, Susanne Rust and Ian James

CORCORAN, Calif. — Just west of this normally dusty prison town, a civic nightmare is unfolding: Tulare Lake, a body of water that did not exist just two months ago, now stretches to the horizon — a vast, murky sea in which the tops of telephone poles can be seen stretching eerily into the distance.

Anxious residents in this Central Valley town of 22,000 know all too well that the only thing keeping this growing lake from inundating their homes and businesses — as well as one of the state's largest and most crowded prison complexes — is a 14.5-mile-long dirt levee that rises up from sodden earth to the west, south and east.

And that levee, according to city officials and local farmers, could be in big trouble.

They worry that this nondescript earthwork may be too low to hold back the millions of gallons of melted snow that are expected to course into the Tulare Lake Basin as summer sunshine warms the slopes of the Sierra Nevada. They worry even more that with water sloshing against the levee for up to two years, it may start to erode and breach.

Many here say they are perplexed and frightened that state and federal officials don't seem to be taking the threat seriously, since the federal government has estimated that flooding would cause $6 billion worth of damage. They note that both California State Prison, Corcoran, and the California Substance Abuse Treatment Facility — a dual prison complex that holds about 8,000 incarcerated men and employs many local resi-

[See **Levee,** A5]

A mother asks how her ex was able to buy gun to kill their son

By Hailey Branson-Potts

HANFORD, Calif. — On a chilly Monday morning in March 2020, Christy Camara drove to pick up her 10-year-old son for school.

Wyland — a quiet boy with big brown eyes and a wry sense of humor beyond his years — was staying at his grandparents' house, where his father lived after the divorce.

As Camara neared, police officers blocked her. Yellow crime scene tape surrounded the stucco house.

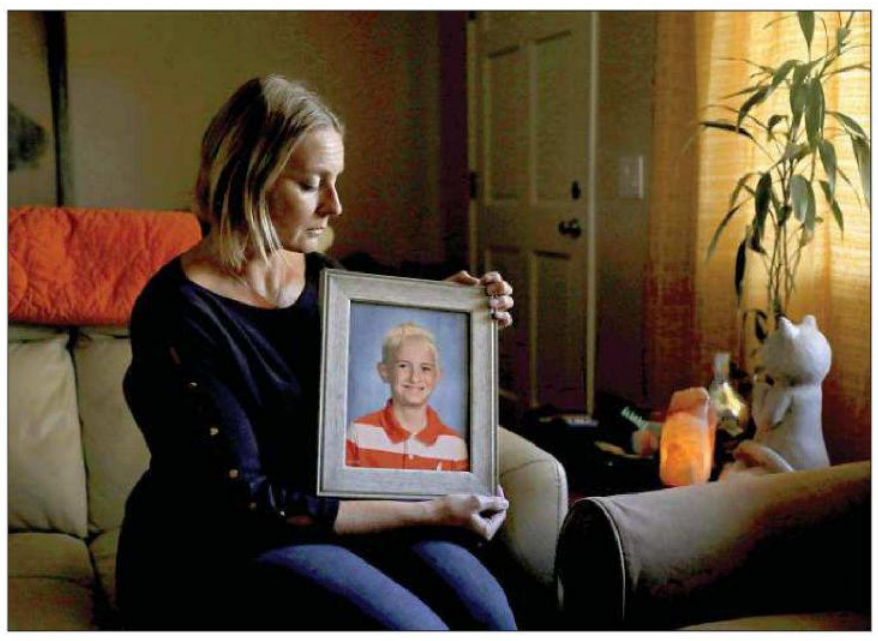
In this small Central Valley city — where Camara and her ex-husband went to the same elementary school their son attended — the faces were familiar: The fireman Camara went to high school with. The officer who was friends with her father.

No one would look her in the eye.

Her ex-husband, Victor Gomes, had shot Wyland in the head before killing himself.

He used a Glock pistol he bought from a nearby gun

[See **Wyland,** A6]



Gary Coronado Los Angeles Times

CHRISTY CAMARA holds a photo of her son, Wyland. A restraining order was supposed to prevent her ex-husband from buying a gun.

'It's not like he bought it on the black market. He went out and bought it at a California licensed gun dealer.'

— Joseph M. Alioto Jr., former federal prosecutor and Christy Camara's attorney

COLUMN ONE

Ancient epics to inspire a modern one

Los Angeles resident practices art of Iranian storytelling to support women back home, where they're forbidden from such performances

By Deborah Netburn

In a lavish West Hollywood banquet hall adorned with the colors of spring, the Iranian epic storyteller Gordafarid strides across the stage like a mythical heroine, dressed in a white embroidered vest, black bell sleeves and white knee-high boots. A silver beaded scarf is arranged like a crown on top of her long, dark hair.

It is Nowruz — the Persian New Year — and the Iranian American Jewish Federation has invited the 46-year-old to perform along with other Iranian female artists — drummers, dancers and singers. The event and fundraiser is a celebration of the country's cultural heritage and a tribute to the female artists back home who are forbidden by the government to sing, dance or play music in public.

The audience falls quiet as Gordafarid's commanding, raspy alto fills the room with melodic Persian. With a mixture of prose, poetry,

[See **Gordafarid,** A12]

Myung J. Chun Los Angeles Times

GORDAFARID, an L.A. resident, is the first known woman to master Naqqali, a storytelling art historically performed by men, for men.

Developers find legal footing to fight NIMBYism

By Jack Flemming

The last group that tried to build multifamily housing in La Cañada Flintridge received a dead rat in the mail.

The package's message couldn't have been clearer, echoing the words that a former city planning commissioner said at a public hearing in 2013: "We like the way it is now."

Tucked in a verdant crook of the Verdugo and San Gabriel mountains, the city is a peaceful refuge from the bustle of Los Angeles, an affluent bastion of beautiful single-family homes on large, leafy lots.

It's expensive, with an average home value of $1.99 million. And it's little; while the rest of Southern California swelled with residents over the last four decades, La Cañada Flintridge's population has hovered around 20,000 since 1980.

For decades the city developed a reputation as being fiercely anti-development in a conflict that came down on clear ideological lines: quality of life versus free market capitalism. To the slow-growthers, the foes were developers trying to get rich at the town's expense.

But the current fight — over the future of a 1.29-acre lot holding an aging Christian Science church building at 600 Foothill Blvd. — has pitted them against a harder group to demonize, those trying to get people into desperately needed affordable housing.

And their foes are playing a card that past builders never used. Because the state says the city has not complied with its housing rules, the developers might get to bypass La Cañada Flintridge city planners altogether and build an even bigger project than the one they originally proposed.

The city's battle over development dates to the 1980s when the founder of now-shuttered sporting goods retailer Sport Chalet looked to build the company's corporate headquarters on Foothill Boulevard.

The proposal went through 34 public hearings and won approval from the City Council, but an opposition group called Friends of 91011 sprouted up soon after, ousting the council members who favored the project

[See **NIMBY,** A7]

Trump now faces trial alleging rape
Jury selection is set for Tuesday in suit filed by former advice columnist who says he assaulted her in 1990s. **NATION, A4**

DWP settles suit in electrocutions
L.A. utility agrees to pay $38 million over downed power line that killed father and daughter in 2021. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Kings lose in OT; series tied at 2-2
L.A. blows 3-0 lead after first period, completing its collapse when the Oilers score in overtime in a 5-4 final. **SPORTS, D1**

Weather
Cloudy, then sunny.
L.A. Basin: 72/56. **B6**

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VISIT…

Transgender kids scrambling amid bans

A push to restrict the healthcare they need is leaving families at crossroads.

By Sam Metz and Amancai Biraben

Erin Woodiel Associated Press

"MY BODY'S basically this ticking time bomb," says Asher Wilcox-Broekemeier, 13. New laws in South Dakota ban types of gender-affirming medication he needs.

SALT LAKE CITY — As a third-grader in Utah, mandolin-playing math whiz Elle Palmer said aloud what she had only before sensed, telling a friend she planned to transfer schools the following year and hoped her new classmates would see her as a girl.

In South Dakota, Asher Wilcox-Broekemeier listened to punk rock in his room, longing to join the shirtless boys from the neighborhood playing outdoors. When menstruation started, he felt a terrifying disconnect between how his body was changing on the outside and how he felt inside.

Both kids' realizations started their families on a years-long path of doctors, therapists and other experts in transgender medicine.

Now that they're teenagers, their journeys have hit a roadblock.

Republican lawmakers across the country are banning gender-affirming care for minors. Restrictions have gone into effect this year in eight states — including conservative Utah and South Dakota — and are slated to take effect in at least nine more by next year.

Those who oppose gender-affirming care raise fears about the long-term effects treatments have on teens and argue that research is limited and focuses on irreversible procedures such as genital surgery or mastectomies.

Yet those procedures are rare. Doctors typically guide kids toward therapy or voice coaching long before medical intervention. At that point, puberty blockers, anti-androgens that block the effects of testosterone and hormone treatments are far more common than surgery. Such treatments have been available in the United States for more than a decade and are backed by the American Medical Assn.

The new laws have parents scrambling to secure the care their kids need. They worry about what will happen if kids can't get the medications they've been prescribed, especially as they start puberty and their bodies change in ways that can't be reversed.

"My body's basically this ticking time bomb, just sitting there waiting for it to go off," said Asher, 13.

Elle remembers the first day at her new school.

She wore cowboy boots embroidered with rainbow sparkles; her mother worried they would spur taunts from bullies. Taunts from kids at Elle's prior school drove her into depression so deep she had suicidal thoughts.

But on that first day, a boy told Elle he loved her boots. Some kids bullied her, but classmates and teachers were far more supportive than at her prior school. Elle discovered new passions in hip-hop and drama class as she settled into a truer version of herself. She started to see a therapist as her uncertainty about how she fit into the gender spectrum grew more pressing.

Elle came out as a transgender girl in fifth grade. Now in seventh, she planned to start hormone treatment this summer so potential side effects wouldn't interfere with her life during the school year, especially her extracurricular math competitions.

But in January, Republican Utah Gov. Spencer Cox signed a ban on gender-affirming care. In a compromise, the law allows kids to keep taking medications if they were already on them. So Elle's mom rushed to get her treatment months earlier than planned.

The waiting list at one Utah clinic swelled to six months. Doctors were confronted with difficult decisions about who would receive appointments.

Elle's medication arrived in the mail just before Utah's law went into effect. A stick implanted in her forearm is slow-releasing hormone blockers to prevent the effects of male puberty from taking hold. She eventually may be prescribed estrogen, and she and her parents will have to navigate whether they'll find doctors to continue her care.

For now, they have a reprieve. For Asher's family, there's no relief yet.

His mother began researching online to understand what was going on with her son, while his father looked to doctors for expertise. With referrals from his longtime pediatrician, Asher met with therapists and doctors who helped explore his history, personality and feelings.

Nearly two years ago, doctors prescribed puberty blockers and birth control to slow breast development and regulate menstruation.

He's 13 now and finds solace in music amid occasional bullying and constant mistaken pronouns.

He practices Blink-182's "All the Small Things" on guitar, plays trumpet in the school band and is rehearsing singing roles for the school musical, "Cinderella." When he's not thinking about testosterone to lower his voice or eventually getting top surgery, he looks forward to playing in the high school marching band next year.

Asher still struggles with moments of gender dysphoria. Friendships that were once strong fizzled after Asher came out as transgender. Parents have disinvited him from their houses out of fears he's a "bad influence."

But his parents have noticed that his emotions have stabilized through his treatment.

"From a parent's view, I see him as being able to be himself authentically, which is wonderful for him," his mother said.

Now he and his parents worry they'll have to start over.

In February, Republican South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem signed a law banning the medications and procedures that doctors typically prescribe for transgender teens.

Asher's family is looking for a new doctor in neighboring Minnesota, where the Democratic governor has signed an executive order explicitly protecting gender-affirming care for minors. They're hoping to find a clinic close enough that they can drive to appointments and won't have to pay for hotel stays.

The sudden twists in Asher's trajectory make him question why his healthcare is of concern to politicians.

"Even though trans people don't make up a big percent of the population doesn't mean that we're not part of it still," Asher said.

The full consequences of the bans on care for minors aren't yet clear.

Dr. Nikki Mihalopoulos, an adolescent medicine doctor in a Salt Lake City specialty clinic, worries that the laws will make families too scared to seek help and doctors too scared of losing their licenses to provide care.

In the middle are kids like Elle and Asher.

Studies have shown that transgender youth are more likely to consider or attempt suicide. Access to gender-affirming care reduces their risk of depression and suicidal behavior.

"My kid being OK is my No. 1 priority," parent Cat Palmer said of Elle. "I know what the suicide rate is. I do not want my child to be a statistic."

Metz and Biraben write for the Associated Press.

NAACP sues Mississippi over plan for state police in capital

The suit warns that 'separate and unequal' law enforcement will return to Jackson.

Associated Press

JACKSON, Miss. — The NAACP warns that "separate and unequal policing" will return to Mississippi's majority-Black capital under a state-run police department, and the civil rights organization is suing the governor and other officials over it.

Republican Gov. Tate Reeves says violent crime in Jackson has made it necessary to expand where the Capitol Police can patrol and to authorize some appointed rather than elected judges.

But the NAACP said in its lawsuit filed late Friday that these are serious violations of the principle of self-government because they take control of the police and some courts out of the hands of residents.

"In certain areas of Jackson, a citizen can be arrested by a police department led by a State-appointed official, be charged by a State-appointed prosecutor, be tried before a State-appointed judge, and be sentenced to imprisonment in a State penitentiary regardless of the severity of the act," the lawsuit says.

Derrick Johnson, the national president of the NAACP, is a resident of Jackson. At a community meeting this month, he said the policing law would treat Black people as "second-class citizens."

The legislation was passed by a majority-white and Republican-controlled state House and Senate. Jackson is governed by Democrats and about 83% of its residents are Black, the largest percentage of any major U.S. city.

The governor said Friday that the Jackson Police Department is severely understaffed and he believes the state-run Capitol Police can provide stability.

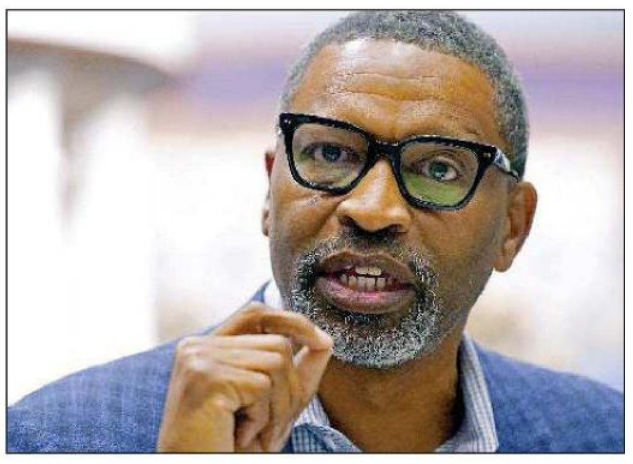
The city of 150,000 residents has had more than 100 homicides in each of the last three years.

"We're working to address it," Reeves said in a statement. "And when we do, we're met with overwhelming false cries of racism and mainstream media who falsely call our actions 'Jim Crow.' "

According to one of the bills Reeves signed into law Friday, Capitol Police will have "concurrent" jurisdiction with Jackson Police Department in the city. The expanded jurisdiction for the Capitol Police would begin July 1.

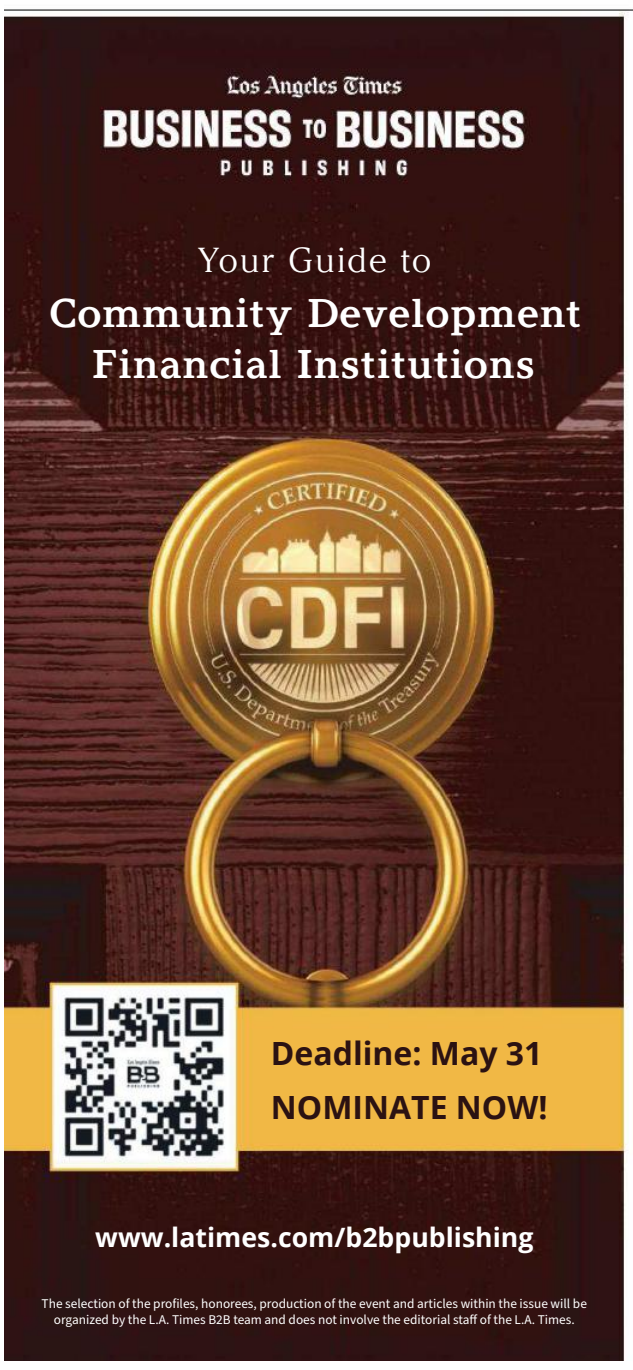
Another law will create a temporary court within a Capitol Complex Improvement District covering a portion of Jackson. The court will have the same power as municipal courts, which handle misdemeanor cases, traffic violations and initial appearances for some criminal charges. The new law says people convicted in the Capitol Complex Improvement District Court may be put in a state prison rather than in a city or county jail.

The judge of the new court is not required to live in Jackson and will be appointed by the Mississippi Supreme Court chief justice. The current chief justice is a conservative white man.



Rogelio V. Solis Associated Press

NAACP President Derrick Johnson says the law would treat Black people as "second-class citizens."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Fleeing Sudan by airlift or road

ASSOCIATED PRESS

MARWAN ALI Associated Press

DESTROYED military vehicles in Khartoum, Sudan, last week. On Sunday, battles raged on for a ninth day.

KHARTOUM, Sudan — Foreign governments evacuated diplomats, staff and others trapped in Sudan on Sunday as rival generals battled for a ninth day with no sign of a truce that had been declared for a major Muslim holiday.

While world powers like the U.S. and Britain airlifted their diplomats from the capital, Khartoum, Sudanese desperately sought to flee the chaos. Many risked dangerous roads to seek safer spots or crossed the northern border into Egypt.

"My family — my mother, my siblings and my nephews — are on the road from Sudan to Cairo through Aswan," prominent Sudanese filmmaker Amjad Abu Alala wrote on Facebook.

Fighting raged in Omdurman, a city across the Nile from Khartoum, residents said, despite a hoped-for cease-fire to coincide with the three-day Muslim holiday of Eid al-Fitr.

"We did not see such a truce," Amin Tayed said from his home near state TV headquarters in Omdurman, adding that heavy gunfire and thundering explosions rocked the city.

More than 420 people, including 264 civilians, have been killed and over 3,700 wounded in the fighting between the Sudanese armed forces and the powerful paramilitary group known as the Rapid Support Forces, or RSF, according to estimates.

The RSF said the armed forces unleashed airstrikes on the upscale neighborhood of Kafouri, north of Khartoum. There was no immediate army comment.

The ongoing violence has paralyzed the main international airport, destroying civilian planes and damaging at least one runway. Other airports also have been knocked out of operation.

The European Union's foreign policy chief, Josep Borrell, tweeted that he had spoken with the rival commanders and urged an immediate cease-fire to protect civilians and allow the safe evacuation of EU citizens.

In other fighting, a senior military official said army and police repelled an RSF attack on Kober Prison in Khartoum, where Sudan's longtime ruler, Omar Hassan Ahmed Bashir, and former officials in his movement have been held since his ouster in 2019. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to the media, said a number of prisoners fled but Bashir and other high-profile inmates were in a "highly secure" area, and "a few prisoners" were killed or wounded.

The RSF claimed later that the military removed Bashir and other prisoners from the facility, although the statement could not be independently confirmed.

The Arqin border crossing with Egypt was crowded with about 30 passenger buses holding at least 55 people each, said Suliman Kouni, an Egyptian dental student who fled northward from Khartoum with dozens of other Egyptian students.

"We traveled 15 hours on land at our own risk," Kouni said by phone. "But many of our friends are still trapped in Sudan."

Sudan experienced a "near-total collapse" of internet and phone connections nationwide Sunday, according to the monitoring service Netblocks.

"It's possible that infrastructure has been damaged or sabotaged," said Netblocks director Alp Toker. "This will have a major effect on residents' ability to stay safe and will impact the evacuation programs that are ongoing."

After a week of bloody battles that hindered rescues, U.S. special forces swiftly evacuated 70 U.S. Embassy staffers from Khartoum to Ethiopia early Sunday. Although American officials said it was too dangerous for a government-coordinated evacuation of private citizens, other countries scrambled to remove citizens and diplomats.

British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak tweeted that U.K. armed forces evacuated British diplomatic staff and their families "amid a significant escalation in violence and threats." Defense Secretary Ben Wallace said more than 1,200 military personnel were involved.

France, Greece, Jordan and other nations also organized flights. The Netherlands sent two Hercules C-130 planes and an Airbus A330 to Jordan for 152 Dutch citizens who made their way out of Sudan, but "not without risks," said Defense Minister Kajsa Ollongren. Italy, seeking to extract 140 of its nationals, sent military jets to Djibouti in the Gulf of Aden, said Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani.

The Italian medical group Emergency said 46 of its staff, working in hospitals in Khartoum, Nyala and Port Sudan, refused to leave.

Overland travel through contested areas has proved dangerous. Khartoum is about 520 miles from Port Sudan on the Red Sea.

On Saturday, Saudi Arabia said it evacuated 157 people, including 91 Saudi nationals and citizens of other countries. Saudi state TV showed a large convoy of cars and buses traveling from Khartoum to Port Sudan, where a navy ship took them to the Saudi port of Jeddah.

The power struggle between the Sudanese military, led by Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan, and the RSF, led by Gen. Mohammed Hamdan Dagalo, has dealt a harsh blow to Sudan's hopes for a democratic transition. The rival generals came to power after a pro-democracy uprising led to the ouster of Bashir. In 2021, the generals joined forces to seize power in a coup.

The current violence came after Burhan and Dagalo fell out over a recent internationally brokered deal with democracy activists that was meant to incorporate the RSF into the military and eventually lead to civilian rule.

The two generals, both craving international legitimacy, have accused each other of obstructing the evacuations. The Sudanese military alleged that the RSF opened fire on a French convoy, wounding a French national. The RSF countered that it came under attack by warplanes as French citizens and diplomats left the embassy for Omdurman.

Troop positions in Ukraine generate fresh speculation

ASSOCIATED PRESS

KYIV, Ukraine — Ukrainian military forces have successfully established positions on the eastern side of the Dnipro River, according to a new analysis, giving rise to speculation Sunday that the advances could be an early sign of Kyiv's long-awaited spring counteroffensive.

The Institute for the Study of War, a Washington-based think tank, reported late Saturday that geolocated footage from pro-Kremlin military bloggers indicated that Ukrainian troops had established a foothold near the town of Oleshky, along with "stable supply lines" to their positions.

Analysts widely believe that if Ukraine goes ahead with a spring counteroffensive, a major goal would be to break through the land corridor between Russia and the annexed Crimean peninsula, which would necessitate crossing the Dnipro in the country's south.

Responding to Ukrainian media reports proclaiming that the establishment of such positions indicated the counteroffensive had begun, Nataliya Gumenyuk, the spokeswoman for Ukraine's Operational Command South, called for patience.

While neither confirming nor denying the ISW report, she said only that details of military operations in the Dnipro delta couldn't be disclosed for operational and security reasons.

Speaking on Ukrainian television, Gumenyuk added that it was "very difficult work" when "it's necessary to overcome an obstacle such as the Dnipro, when the front line passes through a wide and powerful river."

The Kremlin-installed head of the Kherson region, one of four parts of Ukraine that Russia illegally annexed in September, denied Sunday that Ukrainian forces have established a foothold on the east bank of the Dnipro.

In a Telegram update, Vladimir Saldo said Russian forces are "in full control" of the area, and speculated that the images referenced by the ISW may have depicted Ukrainian sabotage units that "managed to take a selfie" across the Dnipro before being forced back.

After more than a year since the Russian invasion, fighting has become a war of attrition, with neither side able to gain momentum.

But Ukraine has recently received sophisticated weapons from its Western allies and new troops freshly trained in the West, giving rise to growing anticipation of a counteroffensive.

American-made Patriot missiles arrived in Ukraine last week and military spokesman Yuriy Ihnat said Sunday that some have already gone into battlefield service.

The U.S. agreed in October to send the surface-to-air systems, which can target aircraft, cruise missiles and shorter-range ballistic missiles such as those that Russia has used to bombard residential areas and the Ukrainian power grid.

The fiercest battles have been in the eastern Donetsk region, where Russia is struggling to encircle the city of Bakhmut in the face of dogged Ukrainian defense.

On Sunday, Russian Defense Ministry spokesman Igor Konashenkov said Moscow's forces had captured two more neighborhoods in west Bakhmut, without providing details or clarifying what areas remained in Ukrainian hands.

Los Angeles Times

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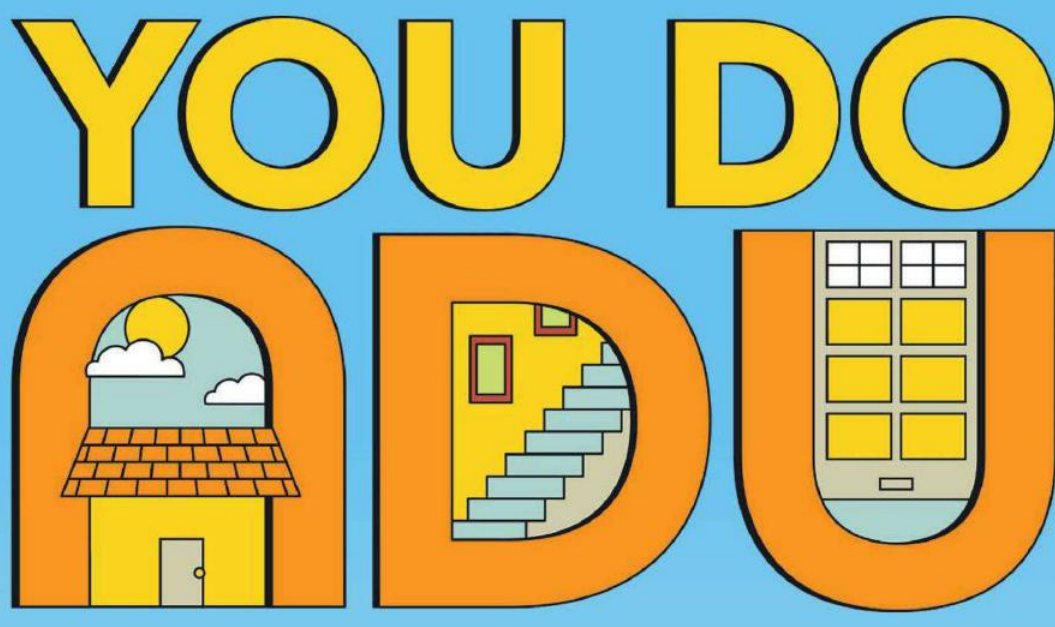

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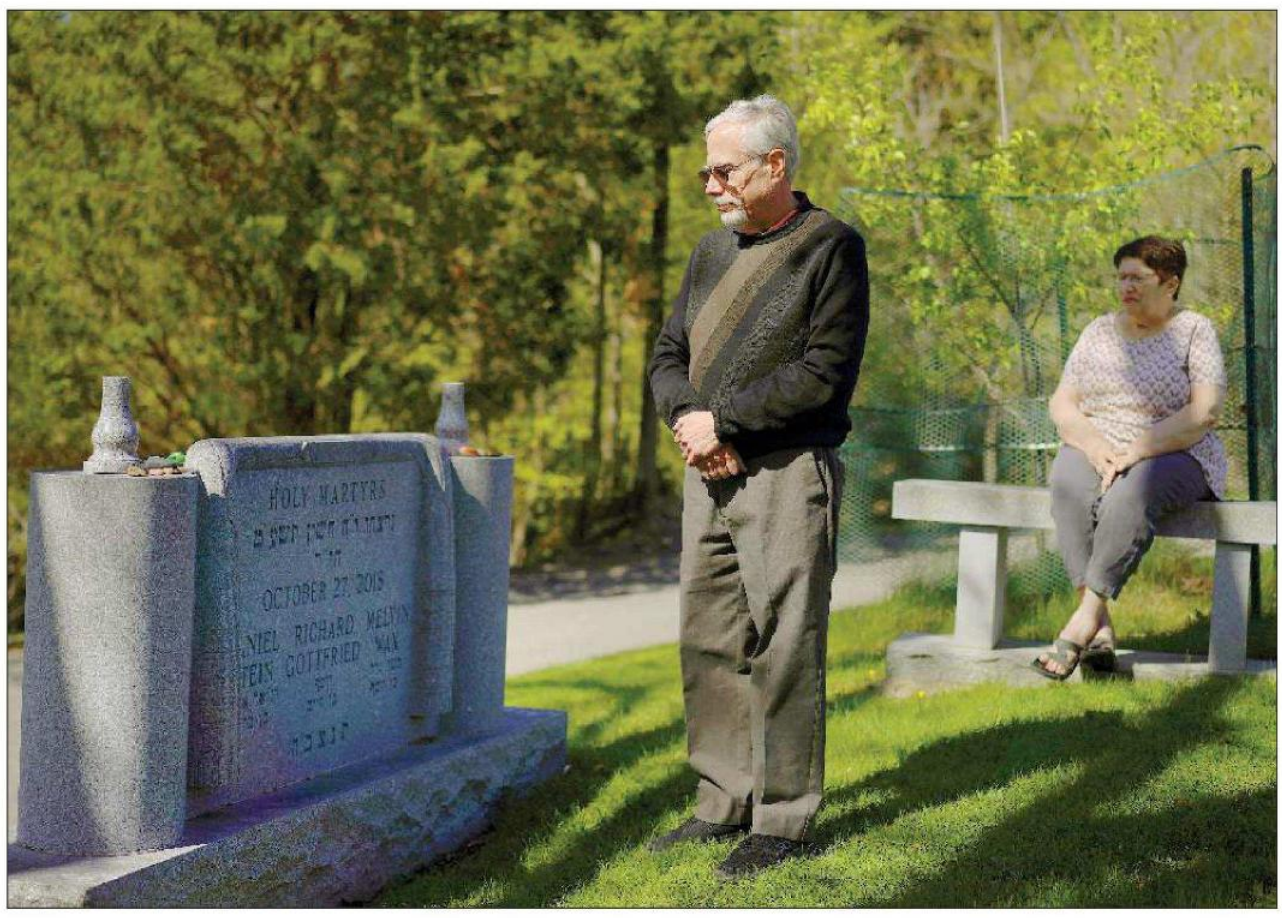
Jury selection to begin in Tree of Life massacre

Faith lifted Pittsburgh Jews as congregations waited 4½ years for justice after shooting.

By Peter Smith



Jessie Wardarski Associated Press

STEPHEN COHEN and Barbara Caplan, co-presidents of the New Light Congregation, visit a memorial in the New Light Cemetery last week in Shaler Township, Pa., to honor the congregants slain in the rampage.

PITTSBURGH — Three Jewish congregations, resolute in their defiance of the hatred that tried to destroy them, are still waiting for justice.

But united in their horror and grief, they haven't been standing still as the criminal case for the massacre that changed everything has crawled through the federal court system.

Four and a half years ago, a gunman invaded the Tree of Life synagogue on a Sabbath morning and killed 11 worshipers from the three congregations that shared the building — Dor Hadash, New Light and Tree of Life.

The shooting, in the Squirrel Hill neighborhood at the heart of Jewish Pittsburgh, was the deadliest antisemitic attack in U.S. history.

On Monday, jury selection is scheduled to begin in the long-delayed trial of the suspect, accused of dozens of charges including hate crimes resulting in death.

The three congregations are wary of what's to come. Some members may be called to testify, and they're bracing for graphic evidence and testimony that could revive the traumas of the Oct. 27, 2018, attack — often referred to around here as simply 10/27.

The tension can be felt in private conversations and encounters — the griefs, the anxieties, the feelings of being in a media fishbowl.

But each in their own ways, members are finding renewed purpose in honoring those lost in the attack, in the bold practice of their faith, in activism on issues such as gun violence and immigration, in taking a stand against antisemitism and other forms of bigotry.

"We don't want to be silenced as Jews," said Rich Weinberg, chair of the social action committee for Dor Hadash. "We want to be active as Jews with an understanding of Jewish values. ... We are going to still be here. We will not be intimidated."

That was evident even in subtle details of a Passover service held this month in New Light's chapel, joined by some members of Dor Hadash.

Some offering Yizkor, or remembrance, prayers were doing so in honor of slain loved ones.

One prayer was read in memory of the "Kedoshim of Pittsburgh, murdered al kiddush Hashem" — holy martyrs, killed while sanctifying God's name. The prayer, modeled on prayers for Jewish martyrs of medieval Europe, has been woven into the ritual fabric of Jewish Pittsburgh.

One of those leading Passover prayers was Carol Black, who survived the attack that claimed the life of her brother, Richard Gottfried, and two other New Light members, Melvin Wax and Daniel Stein. They had led much of New Light's ritual worship.

"Rich and Dan and Mel were our religious heart," said Stephen Cohen, co-president of New Light. "And we had some very big shoes to fill."

Members such as Black and Bruce Hyde have stepped into them. Hyde said when he once read a passage that had been read by Stein, he felt his presence: "He was up there with me."

Cohen said the congregation had three priorities after the attack: to memorialize those lost, to continue their ritual life and to further religious education. New Light, like Tree of Life, is part of the moderate Conservative denomination of Judaism.

The congregation dedicated a monument honoring its three martyrs — shaped with images of Torah scrolls and prayer shawls — at its cemetery, where it also created a chapel adorned with stained glass windows and other mementos honoring the victims.

New Light Co-President Barbara Caplan said her dream for the congregation is "that we have many more years of Friday night services, Saturday morning services, holidays together, where we just go on being the family that we are."

Cohen said the congregation has been overwhelmed by support from Christian, Sikh and other communities and wanted to build on those relationships.

It has held Bible studies with local Black churches, and members visited the Mother Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, S.C., drawing solace from a congregation that lost nine members to a racist gunman in 2015. "I've never been part of a group hug of a hundred people," Cohen recalled.

All three of the modest-sized congregations have been meeting in nearby synagogues since the attack closed the Tree of Life building.

Rabbi Jeffrey Myers had been leading Tree of Life Congregation for just over a year when he survived 10/27. He carries the scarred memories of the gunshots that killed seven members: Joyce Fienberg, Rose Mallinger, Cecil and David Rosenthal, Bernice and Sylvan Simon and Irving Younger. Andrea Wedner, Mallinger's daughter, was wounded in the attack.

Myers continues to speak forcefully against the bigotry behind it.

His mission is "primarily to help my congregation community heal," Myers said. "But beyond it is to speak up, to be a voice, to say, 'No, this isn't OK. It's not acceptable. It never was. And it can never be.' "

He'd like to think the trial will expose the dangers of rising bigotry, but "it takes a concerted effort to be able to ... walk a mile in someone else's shoes," he said. But it affects more than Jews. "Someone who is an antisemite is most likely also the possessor of a long laundry list of personal grievances and other groups that that person does not like."

Members are each recovering in their own ways, congregation President Alan Hausman said.

Each week when he makes announcements, Hausman said he includes this one: "It's OK not to be OK, and we will get through this together."

On Sunday, the day before jury selection, the Tree of Life Congregation held a closure ceremony for its historic building. The congregation and a partner organization plan a major overhaul of the site, which will combine worship space with a memorial and antisemitism education, including about the Holocaust.

"We're not really leaving, we will be back," Hausman said.

"Hopefully we'll be once again a happy, grounded, 160-year-old congregation," added member Audrey Glickman, a survivor. "Back to being a solid group of people who come together regularly and do our thing."

Dor Hadash, founded 60 years ago, is Pittsburgh's only congregation in the progressive Reconstructionist movement of Judaism. Many members are drawn to its interlocking focuses on worship, study and social activism.

It was that activism that appears to have drawn the shooting suspect — who fulminated online against HIAS, a Jewish refugee resettlement agency — to the address where Dor Hadash met. The congregation was listed on HIAS' website as a participant in a National Refugee Shabbat, which wove concern for migrants into Sabbath worship.

On 10/27, members Jerry Rabinowitz and Dan Leger were gathering for a Torah study when they heard the gunshots and ran to help. Rabinowitz was killed, and Leger seriously wounded.

But the attack has only emboldened Dor Hadash members.

They were soon organizing what became a separate group, Squirrel Hill Stands Against Gun Violence, advocating for gun safety legislation. And they redoubled their support for immigrants, refugees and their helpers such as HIAS.

The congregation has sponsored a refugee family originally from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. And it has taken a strong stand against rising antisemitism and white supremacy.

"I think advocacy has been a huge part of our healing," said Dana Kellerman, communications chair for Dor Hadash. Advocacy "isn't just about making myself feel better," she added. "It is about trying to move the needle so that this doesn't happen to somebody else."

The congregation has been growing since the attack, said its president, Jo Recht. The historically layled congregation has hired its first staff rabbi, Amy Bardack. Her formal installation was scheduled for Sunday — a date that wasn't specifically chosen in advance of the trial but that provides a welcome occasion of celebration.

"There are a lot of people who are seeking some way to help so that the world is a more compassionate place," Recht said.

Smith writes for the Associated Press.

Journalist, two other accusers to testify in Trump's rape trial

Writer E. Jean Carroll is seeking damages as former president gears up for 2024 campaign.

By Jennifer Peltz

Nathan Howard Associated Press

FORMER PRESIDENT Trump, who was also indicted in an unrelated case, has sought to parlay his legal troubles into support from Republicans for his 2024 bid.

NEW YORK — Former President Trump's behavior toward women, long a source of flashpoints in his political career, now faces a new level of scrutiny: a trial in a lawsuit accusing him of rape.

Jury selection is set to start Tuesday in the case filed by former advice columnist E. Jean Carroll, who says Trump raped her in a luxury New York department store dressing room in the 1990s.

Trump, who is unlikely to attend the trial, has called the accusations "a complete con job." Carroll, who is seeking unspecified damages, casts the case as a #MeToo-inspired quest for accountability from the epitome of prominent men.

"I'm filing this lawsuit not just for myself but for every woman in America who has been grabbed, groped, harassed, sexually assaulted and has spoken up and still has been disgraced, shamed or fired," Carroll said early on.

The lawsuit is putting Trump's history with women under a microscope as he runs to return to the White House. But if a trial over a rape accusation would be a crisis for most candidates, with Trump, it remains to be seen.

"To the extent that the chaos around Trump is his biggest challenge, this reinforces that narrative," said Alex Conant, a Republican strategist who worked on Marco Rubio's 2016 presidential campaign. "The No. 1 thing I hear in focus groups of Republican voters is that they're tired of the constant drama that comes with Trump."

Trump's political rise was riddled with criticism of his attitudes and conduct toward women.

There were his insulting remarks about onetime Republican rival Carly Fiorina's appearance, his misogynistic comments about former Fox News anchor Megyn Kelly, his double-down on denigrating a former Miss Universe whom he had pilloried about her weight and more — including, most notoriously, the crass "Access Hollywood" hot-mic recording that nearly derailed his 2016 campaign and elicited rare contrition for what he called "locker room banter."

Then there were the dozen-plus women, including Carroll, who came forward during his campaign and presidency to accuse him of sexual assault and harassment. He denied all the claims. Other lawsuits over them were dropped or dismissed, but Carroll's has endured.

If Trump prevails in the case, he will probably tout it as another example of him beating what he sees as spurious claims about him, Conant said. If Trump loses, the impact could depend on the circumstances of the judgment. Carroll is seeking unspecified damages and a retraction of Trump's denials of her allegations.

Trump has aimed to use his other legal troubles — including a recent, unrelated indictment and ongoing investigations into other matters — to bolster his support among fellow Republicans, painting the various probes as a politically motivated "witch hunt" and a broad attempt to "interfere" with the 2024 election. It's unclear whether the voters he seeks to reach will sympathize with his portrayal of Carroll's lawsuit as a pile-on, see it as a growing distraction or ignore it altogether.

His campaign saw a spike in donations after his indictment, which accuses him of fudging his company's records to try to conceal payments made to suppress stories about his alleged marital infidelity; he denies the charges and the sexual encounters.

His favorability ratings have held steady at 34% among U.S. adults overall and 68% among Republicans, according to a recent poll by the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

Beyond its political ramifications, the trial marks a #MeToo milestone, even after closely watched civil and criminal cases against disgraced movie honcho Harvey Weinstein and other powerful men. The case also is drawing national attention to a New York law that allows for lawsuits over decades-old sex crime claims.

The time frame for pursuing criminal charges over the allegations, which Carroll never reported to police, has long since passed. If she prevails in the lawsuit, it could cost Trump money but not his freedom.

A former magazine journalist, talk show host and "Saturday Night Live" writer, Carroll was best known — at least until her lawsuit — for the eponymous advice column she wrote for Elle magazine from 1993 through 2019.

According to Carroll, she crossed paths with Trump at Bergdorf Goodman sometime in 1995 or 1996, when he was a real estate mogul and man about town. Recognizing her as "that advice lady," he asked her to help him browse for a women's gift, bantered with Carroll about a bodysuit and steered her to a fitting room, she says. Then, in her telling, he suddenly forced himself on her while she tried to push him off.

"That rape changed my life, which is shocking for me to now understand," she said in a deposition, a legal term for pretrial questioning under oath.

According to Carroll, she immediately lost interest in dating, then lost her job after she told her story in a 2019 memoir and Trump responded that she was "totally lying." Elle has said her contract wasn't renewed for unrelated reasons.

Trump says he never encountered Carroll at Bergdorf Goodman and had no idea who she was when she publicly accused him. He has asserted that she invented the story to sell her book.

"It's a false accusation. Never happened, never would happen," he said during a caustic 5½-hour deposition, which can be played for jurors.

In snippets released to date, he called Carroll a "nut job," her attorney "a disgrace" and the case "a big, fat hoax." He reiterated his description of Carroll as "not my type" — and misidentified her in a 1987 photo as Marla Maples, his wife from 1993 to 1999.

Besides Carroll, two Trump accusers who never sued are set to testify in Carroll's case.

Jessica Leeds has said Trump grabbed her breasts and tried to put his hand up her skirt when they were seatmates on a flight three decades ago. People magazine writer Natasha Stoynoff has said Trump forcibly kissed her against her will while showing her around his Florida home for a 2005 article.

Jurors also are expected to hear the "Access Hollywood" recording.

The Associated Press does not identify people who say they have been sexually assaulted unless they come forward publicly.

The trial will unfold at a federal courthouse a block from the state court where Trump was arraigned earlier this month on his indictment.

Peltz writes for the Associated Press. AP writer Michelle Price contributed to this report.

Will snowmelt drown the town of Corcoran?

[**Levee,** from A1]
dents — stand in the path of potential destruction.

"Nobody has ever seen that much snow," said Jason Mustain, a clerk at the Corcoran hardware store and a former firefighter. "Of course I'm stressed."

Mustain is not alone.

A bottle of Tums antacid tablets rattled in the cup holder of Kirk Gilkey's truck recently as he drove around the area surveying the rising water.

Gilkey's family has been farming in the area for generations. He said this is the first year in decades that his farm won't plant cotton because of flooding. But what distresses him most is not the financial pain big farmers will experience but the hardship that will be visited upon workers and their families who are dependent upon agriculture for their livelihoods.

"People are scared," he said. If "Corcoran floods, it'll be a ghost town after. It won't survive."

City Manager Greg Gatzka, who for weeks has been waging an unsuccessful campaign to marshal state and federal funds to bolster the levee, said he is "beyond frustrated" by the difficulty of accessing emergency funding.

Local officials want to see the levee reinforced and raised by 3.5 feet — an engineering feat that would cost $21 million, according to Gatzka.

In the meantime, the Cross Creek Flood Control District, which is responsible for the levee, has tapped reserve funds to begin gathering dirt to reinforce it. But Gatzka said the agency has exhausted its resources and needs state help.

As a "desperate last resort," Gatzka said, the agency may also ask local farmers — including Pasadena-based cotton-growing giant J.G. Boswell Co. — to make donations to support the work.

Officials at Boswell and the Cross Creek Flood Control District did not respond to a request for comment.

"My biggest fear," Gatzka said, is that the levee will "become compromised through erosion or deterioration, and then water is going to be heading toward the city, and we will have to be looking at evacuation."

He said the city has heard that state and federal officials are "working on" assistance for the levee, "but it needs to come faster."

For their part, officials at several state and federal agencies said they are monitoring the situation closely but referred questions — and responsibility — back to local officials.

The Army Corps of Engineers, which helped shore up the levees around Corcoran in 1969 and 1983, said Tulare Lake and the Corcoran levee system do not "fall under [Army Corps] authority."

Officials with the state Department of Water Resources said its Flood Operations Center has deployed technical specialists to inspect the levee and is "conducting modeling and mapping to develop tools to assist with local decision making."

Assemblyman Devon Mathis (R-Visalia) said in a statement that the city is "working with private entities to secure funding for levee repairs." He added that his office is trying to secure additional funding.

State Sen. Melissa Hurtado (D-Sanger) said her office has been in "frequent contact" with state and local officials and farmers to "ensure strategic action has been taken." She added, "We are continuing to monitor this situation and will continue to work to facilitate conversations between state, local and federal partners to ensure the community of Corcoran is safe from potential flood impacts."

But as the days grow longer and warmer, people in Corcoran and elsewhere in the region are increasingly worried that not enough is being done to prevent catastrophic flooding.

City officials, in plea after plea, have laid out the stark math of their problem.

Parts of Corcoran are 174 feet above sea level. The water pooling just west of town has reached 178 feet — and could rise higher.

The levee's current height is 188 feet.

The earthwork should be strong enough to hold back 1 million acre-feet of water, Gatzka said.

But what if more water than that comes coursing down from the mountains? The snowpack in the southern Sierra is estimated to be 300% of normal. And farmers upstream are not clamoring to siphon off as much water as they would in drier years.

What's more, the ground beneath Corcoran has sunk, the result of overpumping of water from aquifers that has caused the earth to become compressed — a phenomenon known as subsidence.

Adding to the uncertainty are questions about the integrity of the levee itself. Local officials worry that it will be unable to withstand the pressure of water sloshing against it for up to two years, which is how long it may take for Tulare Lake to recede. (A thick layer of clay underlies the Tulare Lake region, preventing floodwaters from percolating into aquifers.)

The threat of flooding is one the region has faced for decades. Corcoran is situated at the edge of what was once a giant lake — that is, until farms diverted the water from the Kings, Kaweah, Tule and Kern rivers in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Corcoran was incorporated in 1914. Like many towns in the San Joaquin Valley, its founder was a real estate developer with dreams of making it rich. But many here regard J.G. Boswell as the city's real founding father. His namesake company, among the largest agricultural interests in California, was established in Corcoran in 1921 and remains the town's most influential employer.

The majority-Latino town — along with smaller hamlets scattered about the Tulare Lake Basin, such as Allensworth, Alpaugh and Stratford — has been threatened with flooding just about every time there is a monster snowpack in the Sierra.

In 1969 — a year so wet that a pair of ranchers and their sons set off on a boat trip through Tulare Lake all the way to San Francisco — the Army Corps of Engineers partnered with local officials to build levees to protect Corcoran. By April, the lake had reached 188 feet above sea level and was rising approximately 1 foot per week. The levees built that year were 192 feet high.

Some of those levees were removed once the water receded.

In 1983, another series of storms pounded the region. The Army Corps again came to the town's rescue, constructing the current levee around Corcoran but extracting a promise that the Cross Creek Flood Control district would be responsible for maintaining it.

In 2015, the levee was raised after officials grew alarmed by increasing subsidence. Two years later, after a particularly wet winter, officials discovered that it had sunk by 2 feet. Roughly $14 million in Corcoran taxpayer dollars was spent to raise it once again.

Complicating matters is an additional bit of infrastructure in Corcoran: a massive prison complex run by the state of California.

The California Department of Corrections opened the Corcoran prison in 1988. Welcomed by local leaders as a potential economic boon, it was constructed on the south end of town. A decade later, the state opened the adjacent Substance Abuse Treatment Facility. Together, the two institutions house about 8,000 people on properties adjacent to the levee.

In Facebook groups for families of inmates, women with loved ones in the prison said fears about the levee's integrity fill them with anxiety. Meanwhile, around town, rumors abound that the prison is secretly evacuating prisoners in advance of flooding.

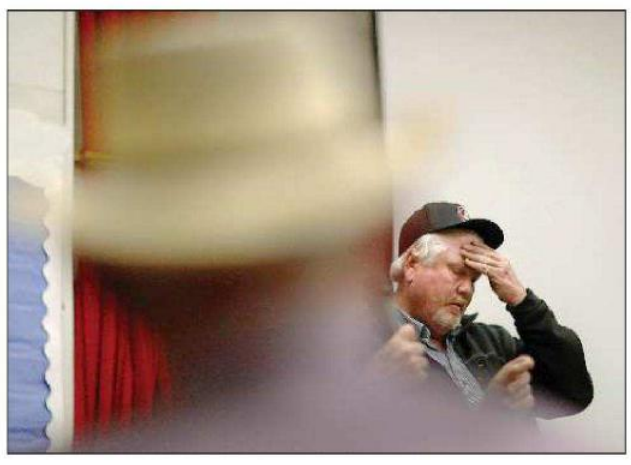
A spokeswoman for the Department of Corrections said via email that there is no immediate danger and that no inmates have been evacuated. However, she added, the facility has stopped accepting new prisoners because of the situation.

Still, the potential for disaster has been a boon for at least one business in town: the Lake Bottom Brewery & Distillery on Whitley Avenue, the town's main street. The wood-paneled watering hole has seen a flood of water tourists and journalists from around the country.

Everyone wants to talk about the same thing, said General Manager Jose Hinojosa: "They all want to know if we're actually going to have the whole town flooded out."

Photographs by Robert Gauthier Los Angeles Times

CREWS REPAIR a damaged drainage channel in Corcoran, in sight of a prison complex that houses about 8,000 people. A Department of Corrections spokesperson said the facility has stopped accepting new inmates.



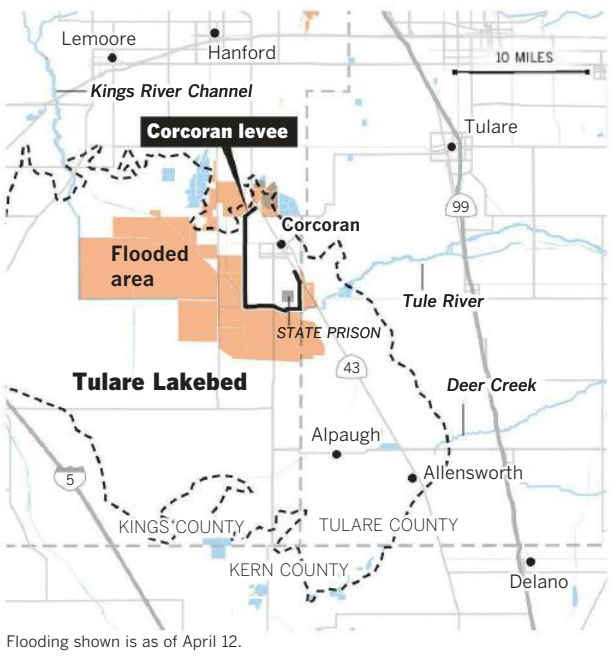
KINGS COUNTY Supervisor Doug Verboon takes part in a town hall about the possibility of flooding.

'People are scared. [If] Corcoran floods, it will be a ghost town after. It won't survive.'

— Kirk Gilkey, farmer who won't plant cotton this year because of flooding

Line of defense

The city of Corcoran and the Cross Creek Flood Control District hope to raise the levee surrounding the town by 3.5 feet in elevation.



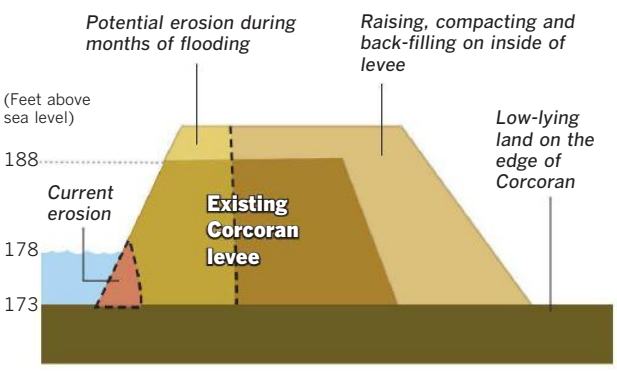
Flooding shown is as of April 12.

OpenStreetMap contributors, city of Corcoran, Kings County, USACE, Negrini, et al. (2006)

Paul Duginski Los Angeles Times

Proposed levee strengthening

The 14.5-mile flood protection levee surrounding much of Corcoran would be reinforced and raised by 3.5 feet.



City of Corcoran

Paul Duginski Los Angeles Times

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How could he have purchased the Glock?

[**Wyland,** from A1]
store when he was supposed to have been under a restraining order that prohibited him from buying a firearm.

As she struggled with paralyzing grief, Camara fixated on one question: How could Gomes have bought the gun?

She sent a flurry of records requests: to the Hanford Police Department, the Kings County sheriff, district attorney and superior court, the California Department of Justice.

What she found was a byzantine system of confidential databases and inconsistent data entry processes that left her with few answers as to why the restraining order was not enforced.

Camara is now suing the California Department of Justice, which has denied her requests for details about the gun sale and the background check.

"Why are they still protecting him?" she said of her ex-husband last month, on the third anniversary of her son's death.

California has the strictest gun laws in the country. But somewhere, Camara believes, the system broke down.

She does not know if court orders barring her ex-husband from having a gun were ever entered into state law enforcement databases that would have flagged him as a prohibited buyer.

The gun store had run a required background check through the California Department of Justice, which came back clean, according to the store owner.

Camara said she feels as if the state cares more about the privacy of a dead man than her right to know how he bought the gun that killed her son.

She wants to see a law named after her only child — a Wyland's Law — that will save other kids, if she can just figure out what went wrong.

::

The threats were well documented.

On a Saturday morning in October 2016, Camara got a frantic call from a family friend: Go get Wyland from his dad's house. Now.

Is he going to hurt wyland or I? Camara asked in a text message just after the call, according to a screenshot of the conversation in court records.

Not you, the friend responded.

Him and wyland?

Just get him out please. And call me, the friend wrote.

Gomes had just received the final divorce papers in the mail. He had called the friend and said he wanted to kill himself and Wyland while leaving Camara alive so she would "live with the hurt" the rest of her life, Camara wrote in a request for a restraining order.

He had called another friend the night before and said the same thing.

When Camara got to Gomes' house, she saw two gun magazines, filled with bullets, under the coffee table. She said they struggled over the boy and that Gomes pulled the screaming child from her arms. But she was able to leave with Wyland.

Camara rushed to the Hanford police station and reported that Gomes was making threats, had bipolar disorder and depression and had attempted suicide in the past.

A police officer visited Gomes at home.

"He stated he has been taking all of his medications and feels completely fine," the officer wrote in an incident report. "He informed me the reason he bought a gun recently was because Christy never liked guns and now that he was divorced from her he wanted one."

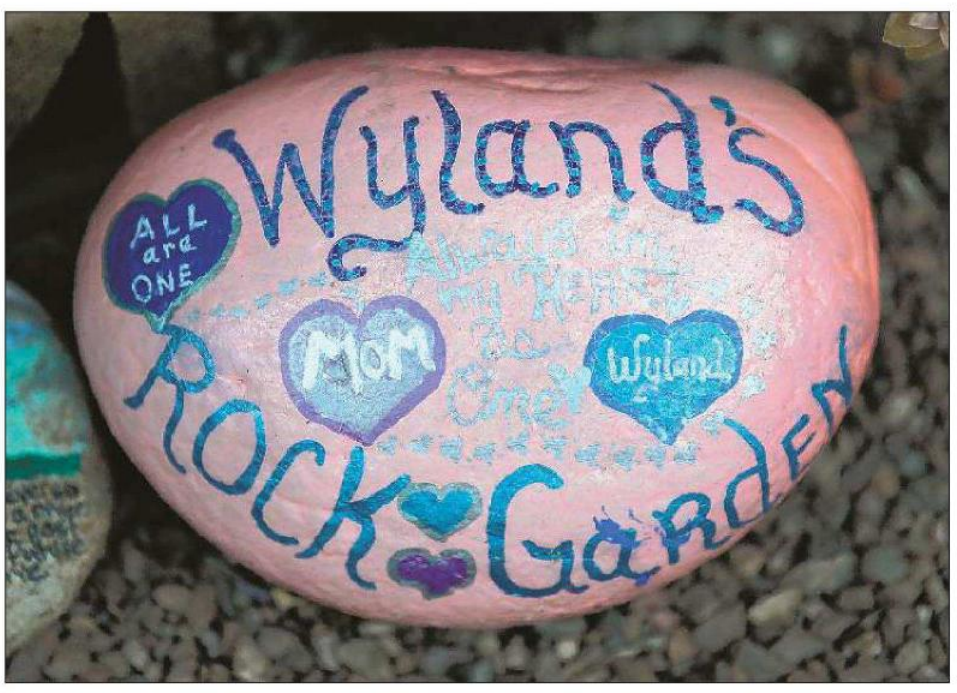
"After talking to Victor I did not think he was going to hurt himself or others."

Three days later, on Oct. 25, 2016, a Kings County judge signed a temporary restraining order that barred Gomes from possessing or buying a gun. It was set to expire at the end of a hearing scheduled the next month.

It was a CLETS order, meaning it should have been entered into the California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System, the computer network managed by the state Justice Department that connects public safety agencies to criminal histories, driving records and other databases.

Photographs by GARY CORONADO Los Angeles Times

CHRISTY CAMARA wants to see a law named after Wyland that will save other children, if she can just figure out what went wrong.



IN HER home garden, Camara has a rock painted in honor of her son, who "was really full of life when he was younger" but changed under his father's influence.

When a gun store runs a background check, any CLETS order against a buyer should show up.

Gomes turned his gun over to Hanford police.

"I did so because I wanted there to be no issues preventing me from my visitation with Wyland," Gomes wrote in a court declaration.

::

Wyland was a baseball player — a little guy, thinner and shorter than his teammates, who insisted on using a blue hand-me-down bat that was much too big for him.

He loved reading Harry Potter books, playing video games and eating the kids' steak dinner at Sizzler. His favorite colors were blue and orange.

"He was funny and quiet," Camara said.

"He was really full of life when he was younger," she added. But as he got older, "his dad deterred him from wanting to be part of anything."

As the divorce dragged on, Wyland stopped wanting to see his friends. He didn't want to go to birthday parties.

His dad would pull him out of school "for no particular reason but to take him home," Camara wrote in court papers.

Gomes, she said, talked to the child as though he was an adult, convincing him that he was his only friend.

For the first few weeks, the temporary restraining order took away Gomes' visitation rights.

I hate that things have to be this way but unfortunately ... Vic brought on all of the worry himself so we have to take measures to ensure Wyland's safety, Camara texted her friend.

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In December 2016, after a delay, a hearing on whether to extend the temporary restraining order took place in Kings County Superior Court.

Camara's and Gomes' attorneys had reached a multipronged agreement.

Gomes would be able to resume supervised visits with Wyland. He would schedule a mental health evaluation with a licensed psychologist or psychiatrist within 30 days of the hearing. If he got a good report, he could start unsupervised visits.

If, after two months, those visits were going well, the parties could consider lifting the CLETS order.

The judge, Kings County Superior Court Commissioner Jerry F. DeMelo Jr., ruled that the temporary restraining order — and its firearms prohibitions — would remain in place for nine months, until September 2017, unless all the parties agreed to remove it sooner.

DeMelo asked Camara's attorney to fill out a restraining-order-after-hearing form, which is the formal written order — signed by the judge — that summarizes the ruling made from the bench.

"I'm obviously comforted by the fact that you have taken charge," DeMelo told the attorneys, according to a transcript of the hearing. "Because I'll tell you, these are the kinds of cases that are difficult for me."

Camara left the courtroom believing that DeMelo's ruling, detailed in a minute order entered into the court file, was in full effect until September 2017.

::

On May 18, 2017, Gomes bought a Glock 17 semiautomatic pistol from Kings Gun Center, a state-licensed gun dealer in Hanford.

Todd Cotta, the store's owner, said recently that handgun buyers must provide photo identification and proof of residency. The store then submits the buyer's information digitally to the California Department of Justice, which performs the background check.

The buyer must wait 10 days to pick up the gun, even though the background check "takes seconds," Cotta said.

A domestic violence restraining order is flagged "if the court system put it in," he said.

For Gomes' purchase, "everything was done per state and federal law," Cotta said. "He was approved by the California Department of Justice."

Cotta said he has records documenting the sale but that it was so standard that he does not remember it, or Gomes. He said he "doesn't follow the news" and was not aware of the murder-suicide when it happened.

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Camara's former attorney, John Umscheid, did not file the restraining-order-after-hearing until August 2017, eight months after the judge requested it.

In an email, Umscheid declined to say why he took so long to file the document.

It is unclear whether the filing needed to occur before the information about Gomes was entered into CLETS and other law enforcement databases.

Camara does not know if the databases ever contained the restraining orders and gun prohibitions.

The latest restraining order was set to expire on Sept. 9, as the judge had ordered.

Julia Weber, an attorney and consultant for Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence who is familiar with Camara's case, said Gomes was prohibited from buying a gun as soon as the judge said so in court.

Though there are often delays before the filing of final paperwork, a judge's oral order "is, in fact, an order," Weber said.

Ideally, an order should be entered into state law enforcement databases within one business day, said Weber, a former supervising attorney for the California Judicial Council who trained judges and court staff.

Some county courts enter restraining orders into the CLETS database themselves, while others rely on law enforcement agencies.

In Kings County, court officials do not have direct access to CLETS, said Nocona Soboleski, the court's executive officer. Law enforcement officials, typically with the Sheriff's Department, enter the orders, Soboleski said.

Nationwide, there is a great deal of inconsistency in how, when and by whom restraining orders are entered into databases, said Daniel Webster, director of the Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Violence Prevention and Policy.

Too often, he said, that variability leads to data entry errors and to delays that allow prohibited people to buy guns.

"Timeliness matters for restraining orders. ... Courts promptly getting that information entered is important to prevent tragedies," Webster said.

The data systems themselves can be vulnerable to error too, Webster said. Many, he said, are outdated and handle a much greater volume of gun purchases than when they were created.

::

In the summers, Camara, a manicurist, encouraged her increasingly serious little boy to do something wild with his hair and "have fun being a kid."

In the summer of 2019, she took him to a salon to get his hair dyed bright blue.

He entered fifth grade with bleach-blond hair, courtesy of the color remover. On the first day of school, his friends called him Slim Shady because he looked like the rapper Eminem.

He wears that hairdo — and a big grin — in his final school portrait.

::

The gun that Gomes turned in to authorities after the initial restraining order in October 2016 was still in police custody after the murder-suicide, said Hanford Police Capt. Karl Anderson.

Camara had not known that he bought a second gun.

Only after she filed a records request with the city of Hanford in 2021 did she learn that he purchased the murder weapon while the restraining order was supposed to be in effect.

"It was shocking to get confirmation he bought the gun during that time," Camara said.

"It's not like he bought it on the black market," added her attorney, Joseph M. Alioto Jr., a former federal prosecutor.

"He went out and bought it at a California licensed gun dealer."

Camara filed a request with the California Department of Justice for records showing whether, and when, Gomes was listed as a prohibited firearms possessor in any state-accessible databases; records showing when, and by whom, a background check was conducted before he got the gun; and other records detailing the purchase.

She sued the department in October after it denied almost all of her requests.

In a statement to The Times, the department said that records about individual firearms background checks and gun purchases — as well as information from the state's database used to track individual restraining orders — cannot be disclosed under the state's public records law.

"First, our hearts go out to the family grieving this tragic loss," read the statement, which said the department has been "actively working" to see if there is any information it can legally provide to help Camara.

In a 2021 court filing in response to Camara's lawsuit, Department of Justice attorneys said some of the records can be shared only with prosecutors, police officers and other law enforcement officials, while disclosure of other records "would constitute an invasion of personal privacy."

Alioto said the Justice Department will not specify whose privacy it is referring to — but that he believes it is Gomes'.

"The Department of Justice's position that Victor Gomes' rights outweigh the interests of Californians is contrary to the law. It is also contrary to reason," Alioto said.

"It's clear in this case that a mistake has been made that led to the murder of a 10-year-old boy," he added. "Californians have a right to explore why that happened and to hold their government accountable to make sure it never happens again."

Attempts by The Times to reach Gomes' parents were unsuccessful.

The California Department of Justice has touted its gun data transparency. Last summer, it launched a website that was supposed to display anonymous statistical information on firearms, including the issuance of concealed carry weapons permits and gun violence restraining orders.

It accidentally published personal information — including names, birthdays and addresses — of about 192,000 concealed carry permit holders and applicants online.

The mistake was blamed, in part, on officials who did not understand how to operate their own website, according to an independent law firm's investigation of the data leak.

::

Camara left Hanford for a condo in San Luis Obispo County where peace signs and photos of her boy cover the walls.

On the refrigerator is a handwritten Mother's Day note from a 6-year-old Wyland: *I think my mom is special for many reasons. First, because she is my mom. Next, also because she gives me kissis.*

Camara realizes she may never know exactly how her ex-husband got the gun.

She has channeled her grief and rage into the lawsuit and writing a book about life after such an earth-shaking tragedy.

She shares her son's dry sense of humor. She would rather think about how much he made her laugh than how he died.

The title of her book is, "Can I Still Be Funny After My Son's Murder?"

The answer, she hopes, is yes.

‘Odd duck’ provision used to battle NIMBYism

Cedar Street Partners

THE CEDAR STREET Partners project, seen in a rendering, would bring much-needed multi-unit housing to La Cañada Flintridge.

[**NIMBY,** from A1]
and suing the city to overturn the certification of the environmental impact report.

Jim Edwards, the city’s former mayor who lost reelection after supporting the project, called the outrage pure NIMBYism.

Fast forward four decades and the sentiment still rages on.

The current fight began in 2015 when Oakmont Senior Living — a Santa Rosa, Calif., housing company with 51 communities across California and Nevada — eyed the address for its next development, proposing a three-story, 72-unit facility.

Oakmont presented the project to the city’s planning commission in January 2018, and commissioners requested time to gauge residents’ concerns about potential effects on views, traffic and parking, according to the La Cañada Valley Sun.

The opposition was swift and unrelenting, led by an actor who played a famous sitcom dad. “Family Ties” star Michael Gross founded Together La Cañada, a nonprofit dedicated to “responsible development that fosters sustainable growth and public safety.”

He called the project the “symptom of a larger problem” of not adhering to the Downtown Village Specific Plan, a framework adopted by the city in 2000 to enhance the area’s role as a destination.

The group, which didn’t respond to multiple interview requests, carried out the same purpose as Friends of 91011, rallying residents against the development and stalling progress to the point at which Oakmont made no further proposals.

After an Oakmont executive received the dead rat in the mail, postmarked from a local ZIP Code, the company abandoned the project in 2019.

Then came Cedar Street Partners, a development company that also specializes in senior housing projects.

But unlike Oakmont, Cedar Street has three partners with strong ties to the city: Alexandra Hack, who grew up in the area; Garret Weyand, who lives a few blocks away from the site; and Jonathan Curtis, who was once the city’s mayor.

The company picked up the property for $4.2 million in September 2019 and began laying plans for a mixed-use project: 47 senior housing units, a 12-room hotel and office space. The ambitious project would require an exemption from the downtown area’s strict zoning code, but the team believed it should be granted because of its much-needed contribution of multi-unit housing.

The backlash began immediately, and Together La Cañada alleged on its website that the project would set “a disturbing precedent which would undoubtedly over time alter a large portion of the Foothill corridor.”

The group also launched two petitions deriding the project. One features an illustration of a traffic jam at the proposed site. The other, titled “Why Is the 600 Foothill Project Back???,” collected more than 200 signatures.

On the website, petitioners raised concerns over the project’s potential effects on traffic and density. Most argued that the location simply wasn’t suitable for multifamily housing.

“This intersection with the Arco station directly adjacent is already so busy and dangerous — putting 47 dwellings with 70-100 parking spaces there is irresponsible,” wrote Robin Gruber.

“I’m all for 55+ living accommodations, but disagree this is the best location and scope of project,” wrote Kelly Chamberlain.

Other comments were more impassioned.

“This will change the tapestry of La Cañada forever! Stop the insanity!” wrote Patty Wynne-Hughes.

The developers focused on public outreach with three hearings totaling 13 hours and private conversations with City Council members.

Weyand said he spoke with business owners surrounding the project, all of whom supported the development privately, but wouldn’t support it publicly for fear of being boycotted by residents.

In September, the city’s planning commission recommended approval of the project.

The trio felt optimistic, but the vibe was short-lived. Two months later, the City Council unanimously voted down the project 4 to 0.

“We went in hopeful, but looking back, there’s absolutely no way they would’ve ever approved it,” Hack said.

She added that the council’s stated reason for denying the project was that it would disturb the village-like atmosphere of the downtown corridor.

“What village?” she said. “We’re next to an Arco and a giant Ralphs parking lot.”

A drive down Foothill Boulevard, the city’s main commercial stretch, showcases a bit of local charm. There is a Pilates studio, smoothie shop, bookstore, bar, trading card store and a well-reviewed fried chicken joint. But cars far outnumber the people on foot.

An independent economic analysis of the Downtown Village Specific Plan in 2020 found that its mandates “have not resulted in the type of development pattern envisioned in the plan.”

The Cedar Street trio walked away from the City Council vote dejected. But they could play hard too. The company is mounting a strategy for an even bigger development based on a little-known, untested legal provision in the state housing law. If it works, it’ll have ramifications far beyond the small foothill city.

Out of compliance

In the quest to address California’s housing crisis, the state relies on every single city and county to identify sites to build affordable housing. Some have succeeded. Many, many others, including La Cañada Flintridge, have failed.

The initiative dates to 1967 when Gov. Ronald Reagan signed a housing law that required local governments to plan “for the housing needs of all economic segments of the community.”

As part of the housing element law, the Department of Housing and Community Development requires cities and counties to develop plans for growth every eight years to address population increases and account for factors such as density and overcrowding to keep up with the state’s housing need projections.

> ‘What village? We’re next to an Arco and a giant Ralphs parking lot.’
>
> — Alexandra Hack, developer with Cedar Street Partners, on the La Cañada Flintridge City Council’s rejection of the housing project because it would allegedly disturb the village-like atmosphere of the downtown corridor

Those projections are a doozy. In 2019, Gov. Gavin Newsom said Southern California must plan for 1.3 million homes by 2029 — triple the number required by the previous cycle.

The latest plans were due in October 2021 for Southern California jurisdictions, and the state required that La Cañada Flintridge identify properties for an additional 612 units over the next eight years. The majority of that would probably have to come from multifamily housing, which is virtually nonexistent in the city.

A 2018 profile of the city by the Southern California Assn. of Governments found that the housing stock is 94.5% single-family and 4.9% multifamily. The same study found that the city permitted just three multifamily units since 2000.

The housing element law requires local governments to pinpoint certain areas that could be redeveloped into housing, but according to state housing officials, La Cañada Flintridge chose unrealistic sites: occupied single-family homes, thriving businesses, etc.

Two months after the city submitted its draft in October, the Department of Housing and Community Development rejected it because it didn’t provide a definitive timeline for the impacts of its plan, among other reasons.

The rejection was one of many handed down from Sacramento. Though the drafts were due a year and a half ago, roughly half of the 89 jurisdictions in L.A. County are still out of compliance.

Some cities have been accused of submitting drafts and redrafts in bad faith, and a handful, including La Cañada Flintridge, are being sued for lack of compliance.

In March, the nonprofit organization Californians for Homeownership filed a lawsuit against the city, alleging it “adopted a housing element that does not identify adequate sites for housing development, among other deficiencies.”

Matt Gelfand, who’s leading the litigation, said the city failed to identify places that could reasonably be redeveloped into housing.

“The city has frequently said that it’s built out with no space for additional housing,” he said. “But how can you argue there’s no room for housing when someone wants to build some and you’re telling them no?”

California’s housing element law has been criticized as toothless because it doesn’t ensure the actual construction of housing, but Gelfand said there are a handful of punishments that can result from being out of compliance.

Those punishments can include ineligibility for certain state grants and suspension of a city’s building permit authority.

One punishment is uncertain and untested. It’s called builder’s remedy, and Cedar Street Partners is trying to use it to push its project through without the city’s consent.

Builder’s remedy

Builder’s remedy is a provision in California’s Housing Accountability Act that prohibits cities from denying certain housing projects if the city is out of compliance with housing element law. In other words, it allows housing developers to bypass local zoning restrictions as long as 20% of the units are low-income or 100% are moderate-income.

“Builder’s remedy is an odd duck,” said Niran Somasundaram, an associate attorney with the law firm Hanson Bridgett. “It’s been a part of California law since 1990, but there’s a lot of gray area, and it hasn’t been widely used.”

Until now, developers have shied away from the strategy because it goes over the heads of local governments that most builders need to work with on a yearly basis. Don’t bite the hand that feeds you — or zones you.

But this time around, state housing officials have signaled they’d be willing to back builder’s remedy projects in court.

“It’s all part of this trend from the California Legislature to make clear that building more housing throughout the state at all income levels is a priority,” Somasundaram said. “This is the first time developers are looking at it as a viable pathway because there’s buy-in from [the Department of Housing and Community Development] and state officials.”

Stripping cities of such power and handing it to developers is unprecedented, and it’s already leading to a bevy of applications, especially in affluent areas with low housing production and high potential profits.

The most prominent example is Santa Monica, where at least 16 builder’s remedy projects are in the pipeline. One developer is calling for 4,500 apartments across 14 buildings — more new housing than the city has built in the last decade.

“Everyone was waiting on the sidelines to see who’d be the guinea pig,” Hack said. “Once we saw the Santa Monica projects, we decided we were ready.”

La Cañada Flintridge submitted the second draft of its housing element in October. The state rejected it two months later, and the city filed the third draft in February and claimed on its website that it was in compliance. But the state has yet to approve it.

In an interview with the Real Deal, Keith Eich, the city’s mayor, called the draft a good-faith effort.

But until it is approved, developers are free to submit builder’s remedy applications.

Hack, Weyand and Curtis submitted their application in November. They said they bent over backward meeting the city’s conditions for their first application — adding a streetlight, moving the main entrance, etc. — but this time around, the concessions are over.

And because they no longer need to adhere to the city’s strict zoning, they’re going bigger. What started as a three-story project with 47 senior housing units and a 12-room hotel across 77,000 square feet has turned into a five-story project with 80 mixed-income units and a 14-room hotel across nearly 120,000 square feet.

Then began the back and forth, with both sides attempting to navigate the gray area to their benefit.

In February, the city determined that the application was incomplete, claiming that because the city has adopted its housing element — despite it not yet being approved by the Department of Housing and Community Development — it was not subject to builder’s remedy, and the project would have to adhere to the standard zoning laws.

The Department of Housing and Community Development got in the mix, sending a letter to the city in March reminding it that it was still out of compliance.

On April 7, the city set an appeal for May 1 to determine the status of the application. Now, the developers wait.

On a cloudy day in April, the three developers meet at the church, which has been abandoned.

A homeless person has taken shelter in a corner of the property. The inside reeks of mold, and the roof of a room is caving in.

“This state has a housing crisis, and we’re trying to help La Cañada do their part,” Weyand said. “If not here, then where?”

Wally Skalij Los Angeles Times

DEVELOPERS Alexandra Hack, left, Jonathan Curtis and Garret Weyand of Cedar Street Partners, shown near the Christian Science building, have resorted to an untested legal provision to push the project through.

NBCUniversal chief quits over ties with woman

[**NBCUniversal,** from A1] unclear, and Comcast and NBCUniversal executives declined to elaborate.

The woman with whom Shell had the inappropriate relationship was the person who filed the complaint, according to two knowledgeable people who were not authorized to comment. She is a longtime journalist at the company, the sources said.

One knowledgeable person said the woman who filed the complaint alleging inappropriate conduct by Shell was CNBC anchor and senior international correspondent Hadley Gamble.

Gamble was not immediately available for comment Sunday night, and a representative for Shell declined to comment. Deadline first reported that Gamble had filed the complaint.

Comcast said it acted "quickly" after receiving a complaint and launching the outside investigation.

The shake-up happened suddenly.

Shell performed his regular duties all last week, according to sources familiar with the situation. He had traveled to Philadelphia, where Comcast is headquartered, on Thursday, participating in festivities by the Chamber of Commerce for Greater Philadelphia to honor Roberts.

Employees were shocked by Shell's departure. Few people internally were aware of the investigation.

Comcast executives declined to say when they received the complaint.

The company decided over the weekend that Shell needed to go, according to the knowledgeable people.

Shell, 57, was not immediately available for comment.

"When our principles and policies are violated, we will always move quickly to take appropriate action, as we have done here," Roberts and Cavanagh said in their note.

RICK LOOMIS Los Angeles Times

JEFF SHELL stepped down Sunday after three years as NBCUniversal's chief executive, Comcast Corp. said.

Shell's departure comes at an inopportune time for NBCUniversal, which has been struggling to forge a clear path in the streaming age and remain a go-to source of news and entertainment for millions of viewers. Streaming service Peacock, launched in 2020 under Shell's watch, has lagged much of the competition, including Disney+.

Comcast is set to report quarterly earnings Thursday, and next month is a crucial period for NBCUniversal's television division.

The all-important advertising sales season kicks off in mid-May. Broadcast network NBC has been grappling with lower ratings and has had difficulty developing new hits.

A key decision that Shell had been weighing was whether NBC should abandon original programming in the 10 p.m. prime-time hour and return that hour-long block to TV stations for local newscasts.

For now, NBC is planning to continue to provide programming during the hour, including some of television producer Dick Wolf's procedural dramas, but the debate underscores the challenges in keeping broadcast networks relevant and profitable in the digital age.

Shell was expected to play a pivotal role in Comcast's negotiations with Walt Disney Co. CEO Bob Iger over the fate of streaming service Hulu. Disney has the controlling stake in Hulu, and Comcast owns 33%. Comcast nearly four years ago agreed to sell its stake to Disney for about $9 billion by January 2024.

But Iger has lately shown less enthusiasm for creating general entertainment, including original programs for Hulu, leading to speculation that Disney will try to sell it. Disney is in the middle of a dramatic cost-cutting program, with a major round of layoffs expected to begin this week, including at Hulu. NBCUniversal has also undergone multiple rounds of cost-cutting.

In addition, film and TV studios are in high-stakes negotiations with the Writers Guild of America to forge a new labor agreement by May 1. Failure to reach a deal would result in the first screenwriters' strike in 15 years.

Shell was a trusted Comcast executive for nearly two decades. He became NBCUniversal CEO in January 2020, succeeding longtime chief Steve Burke.

The Los Angeles native started his career at investment bank Salomon Bros. after earning a degree in economics and applied mathematics from UC Berkeley and an MBA from Harvard.

He went on to work at Walt Disney in strategic planning. He worked for 11 years at Rupert Murdoch's News Corp., including a year as CEO of the troubled Gemstar-TV Guide International, which Fox then co-owned. He joined Comcast in 2004.

After Comcast bought NBCUniversal in 2011, Burke sent Shell to London to learn the international business. It was clear that Burke saw Shell as his successor after Burke in 2013 put Shell in charge of the Universal film studio, which he led during some of its most profitable years.

His abrupt departure comes after multiple Hollywood executives in recent years have been toppled because of their questionable behavior with women.

The company ousted longtime Universal studio executive Ron Meyer in August 2020 after learning he made hush-money payments to an actress to cover up an old affair. At the time, Shell said in a statement that Meyer "acted in a manner which we believe is not consistent with our company policies or values."

Last year, former NBCUniversal CEO Jeff Zucker was forced to resign from the top job at rival CNN after acknowledging a relationship with a colleague.

In 2019, Warner Bros. CEO Kevin Tsujihara left the Burbank studio over an affair with the same woman as in the Meyer situation. CBS chief Leslie Moonves was forced out in 2018 amid allegations that he had abused women in the 1980s and '90s, which Moonves has denied.

Shell appeared to exhibit little tolerance for scandals during his tenure. After The Times' investigation into questionable finances and a lack of Black members within the Hollywood Foreign Press Assn., Shell made it clear that the HFPA's Golden Globes telecast was not welcome on NBC, prompting a yearlong hiatus for the awards show.

After enduring years of criticisms that NBCUniversal had botched its handling of allegations against producer Harvey Weinstein and former "Today" anchor Matt Lauer, Shell signaled a hard line, ushering out longtime NBC News Chief Andy Lack.

Times staff writer Stephen Battaglio contributed to this report.

Push to bolster security of key election tech

By Christina A. Cassidy

ATLANTA — An effort to create a national testing program for technology central to U.S elections will be launched later this year, aiming to strengthen the security of equipment that has been targeted by foreign governments and provided fertile ground for conspiracy theories.

So far, states have been left on their own to evaluate the technology that provides the backbone of election operations: voter registration databases, websites used to report unofficial results on election night and electronic pollbooks, which are used instead of paper rolls to check in voters at polling places.

The nonprofit Center for Internet Security hopes to provide the nation's first uniform testing program for the technology, similar to one for voting machines. Its goal is to start the voluntary service in September as a way to help boost the security and reliability of the technology before the 2024 presidential election.

In 2020, 15 states, including Arizona, Florida and Nevada, did not require any type of electronic pollbook testing or certification, according to federal data.

"This is a critical need being filled at a critical time," said Chris Wlaschin, senior vice president for Election Systems & Software, a leading voting machine manufacturer. "I think as more election officials learn about it, the more they're going to ask for it."

The use of electronic pollbooks has expanded rapidly in recent years. Nearly one-third of voting jurisdictions in the U.S. used electronic pollbooks in 2020, compared with about 18% four years earlier, according to the federal Election Assistance Commission.

The systems bring unique security challenges. In many cases, they have internet connections or interact with systems that do.

How much of an effect the new testing program will have on the 2024 presidential election is yet be determined. Much depends on how many technology providers sign up and how many state election offices will use it, but there appears to be wide interest.

"One of the major benefits of this program is that it will provide a consistent process for certification for all of the different states that adopt it," said Jamie Remes with VR Systems, a provider of electronic pollbooks and election management systems.

The South Carolina State Election Commission was among the offices participating in the center's testing pilot. Commission member Brian Leach said that he saw one benefit of the program as helping "increase voter confidence."

Confidence in elections, particularly among Republicans, has decreased amid a sustained campaign by former President Trump and his allies to discredit the results of the 2020 presidential election. There is no evidence of widespread fraud or manipulation of voting equipment in 2020.

The center has not been immune to the assault on U.S. elections and has faced various claims related to its work. Online posts have sought to raise questions about its funding, purpose and the services it provides to election offices.

The center receives a mix of federal and private money, and the pilot developed for its testing program received support from the Democracy Fund, which was started by EBay founder Pierre Omidyar, a donor to liberal causes. The testing program itself is funded solely by the center and eventually is to be supported entirely with fees paid by technology providers, according to the center.

Meanwhile, the federal commission is pursuing its own testing program for electronic pollbooks. Earlier this year, agency officials said that they were making progress with their pilot program but that it was unlikely standards could be in place before the 2024 election.

As the use of electronic systems has grown, they have proved an attractive target for those seeking to meddle in U.S. elections.

In 2016, Russian hackers scanned state voter registration systems looking for vulnerabilities and accessed the registration database in Illinois, although an investigation later determined no voter data was manipulated. In 2020, Iranian hackers obtained confidential voter data and used it to send misleading emails, seeking to spread misinformation and influence the election.

Those involved said the center's testing program already has had an effect in boosting confidence in the systems.

"It's not just about product testing," said Jared Dearing, the center's senior director of election security and the former director of the Kentucky State Board of Elections. "It's increasing the security posture of the companies that are creating these products."

Cassidy writes for the Associated Press.

Bed Bath & Beyond files for bankruptcy protection

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bed Bath & Beyond — one of the original big-box retailers known for its seemingly endless offerings of sheets, towels and kitchen gadgets — filed for bankruptcy protection after years of dismal sales and losses and numerous failed turnaround plans.

The beleaguered home goods chain made the filing Sunday in U.S. District Court in New Jersey and said it will start an orderly wind down of its operations while seeking a buyer for all or some of its businesses.

In the bankruptcy filing, the retailer said it anticipates closing all of its stores by June 30.

For now, the company's 360 Bed Bath & Beyond stores and its 120 Buy Buy Baby sites as well as its websites will remain open to serve customers.

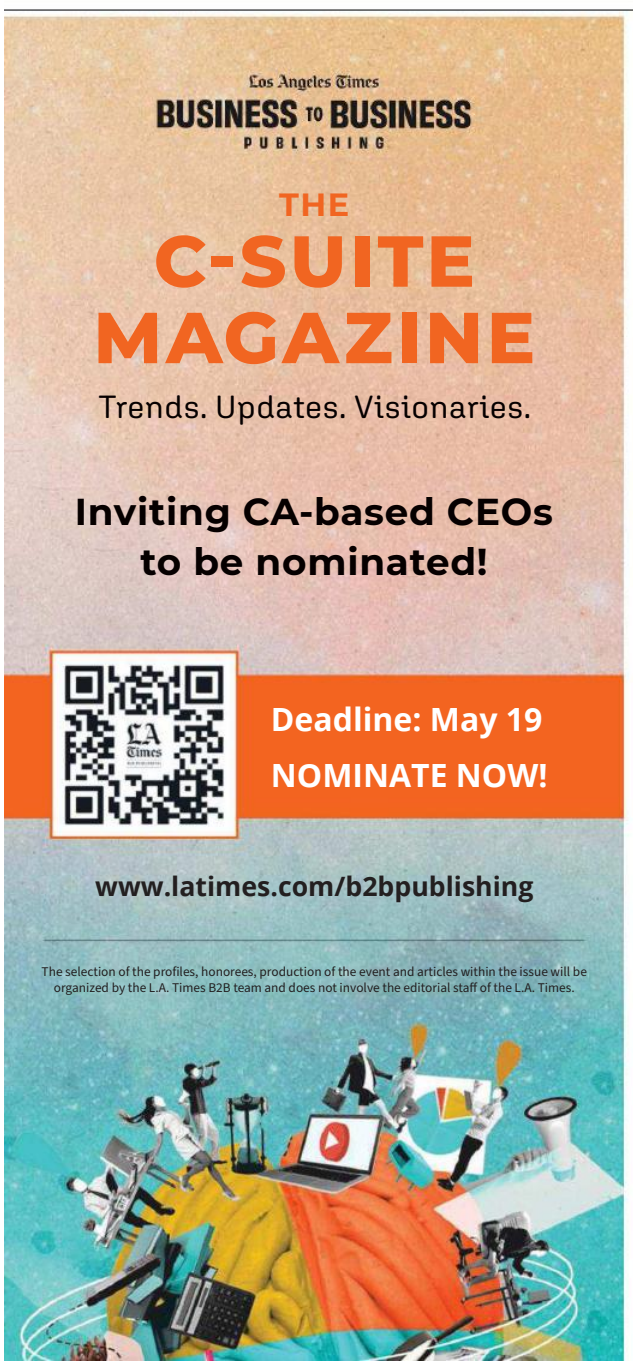
It listed estimated assets and liabilities in the range of $1 billion to $10 billion. The move comes after the company failed to secure funds to stay afloat.

In a statement, the Union, N.J., company said it voluntarily made the filing "to implement an orderly wind down of its businesses while conducting a limited marketing process to solicit interest in one or more sales of some or all of its assets."

The store closings will put thousands of jobs at risk. The company had 14,000 workers, according to the court filing. That's down from 32,000 employees as of February 2022.

Bed Bath & Beyond said it secured a commitment of roughly $240 million in financing from Sixth Street Specialty Lending Inc. to allow it to keep operating during the bankruptcy process.

"It's the death of an icon. A lot of people have grown up with it, " said Neil Saunders, managing director of GlobalData Retail. "It's an institution in retailing, but unfortunately being an institution doesn't protect you from financial woes."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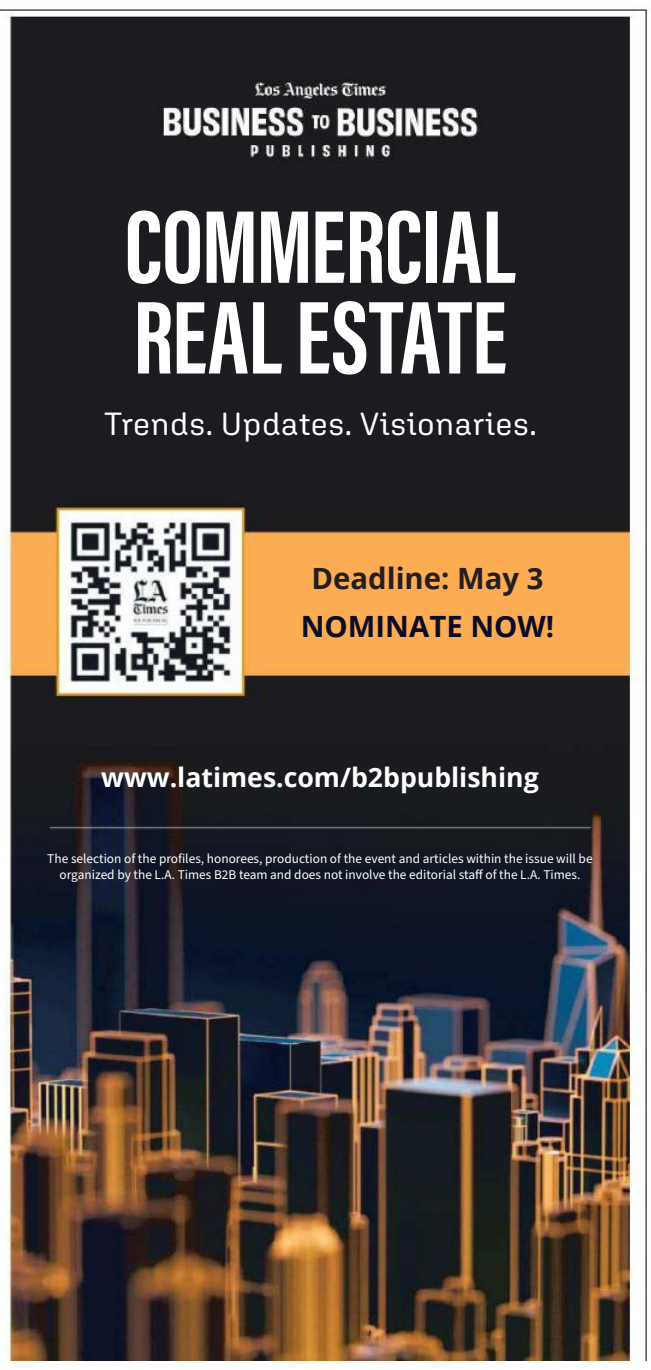
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BUSINESS

Road trip sheds light on climate change

California is shifting fast. Some things you should cherish. Others you should just let go.

By Sammy Roth

Sammy Roth Los Angeles Times

A VIEW of Lake Tahoe's Emerald Bay. The water was clearer than it had been since the 1980s, UC Davis scientists said. The melting of snow around it and elsewhere in the Sierras could wreak havoc downstream.

Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it.

So says Matthew Broderick in "Ferris Bueller's Day Off," and he might as well be talking about California these days. As the planet continues to heat up, the state's landscapes, watersheds and weather are shifting so fast it can be difficult to keep track.

Record snowfall in the Sierra Nevada after years of drought. Superblooms so vast they can be seen from space. Hillsides so verdant they could fuel gigantic fires — and maybe rattlesnake bites — as spring turns to summer turns to fall.

I've been on the road the last few weeks, and I got to see many of those changes firsthand.

Let's start with the snow. It's truly mind-boggling.

At Serene Lakes — just west of Donner Pass, off Interstate 80 in the northern Sierra — at least 15 feet of powder was piled up in mountain communities, blanketing rooftops and blocking doorways and already starting to melt. The dozens of feet of snow that have fallen in recent months are a boon to ski resorts, some of which expect to stay open into July.

Not having a lot of snow experience myself — or a pair of snowshoes — I kept taking bad steps and sinking into loose powder. Part of my mind was stuck on all the havoc this snow would wreak in the form of downstream flooding, a problem that will only get worse as planet-warming carbon pollution intensifies California's traditional swings between dry and wet.

I was also cognizant of how much we'll benefit from the snowmelt — not just for drinking water, but also through increased hydroelectricity production at dams, which should reduce the state's reliance on fossil natural gas, at least in the short term.

Good or bad, the snow was definitely beautiful.

Not far from Donner Pass, Lake Tahoe was also looking mighty fine.

Despite living most of my life in California, I'd never been to Tahoe, which inspires the kind of reverence typically reserved for religious experiences. It took me all of two minutes to figure out why. The water was a spectacular blue, the shores lined by snowy mountains. And at least on the weekday morning I was there, the loudest sounds were gentle waves.

The water was also amazingly clear — clearer than it had been since the 1980s, UC Davis scientists reported this month.

The world is changing fast. But it's not all bad, all the time.

The next day, I hiked at Table Mountain — another reminder of the fine line between serenity and calamity.

Colorful wildflowers dotted the ancient lava-flow landscape, with poppies, lupines and goldfields lining the trail to Phantom Falls, a gorgeous 166-foot waterfall flowing into Coal Canyon. The only discordant note was a dead cow stinking up the trail.

On the horizon, more serious disharmony lingered.

The 2018 Camp fire, which destroyed the town of Paradise, had raged not far from our trail. One of my companions pointed to a ridge that the flames torched, threatening but ultimately not reaching North Table Mountain Ecological Reserve.

We spotted another hiker wearing a "Paradise Strong" T-shirt — a local rallying cry in support of rebuilding the community.

Does it make sense to rebuild mountain towns destroyed by flames, when they'll only face greater risk of burning again as temperatures keep rising? As early as 1900 — long before climate change became a crisis — Theodore Roosevelt foresaw the danger of human development intruding on wildfire territory. "As railroads tend to encroach on the wilderness, the temptation to illegal hunting becomes greater, and the danger of forest fires increases," the future president warned.

As a coastal city dweller, I don't feel comfortable passing judgment on whether rural towns battered by climate disaster should be allowed to rebuild. But there's a larger issue here, which is humanity's habit of coping with change by clinging to the past.

There's comfort in holding tight to the institutions and infrastructure that have served so many of us so well, for so long — the water rights, the dams, the gas-fired power plants. But there's also risk in it. The tree that doesn't bend is liable to break.

Which isn't to say that bending is easy.

Leaving Table Mountain, we drove past Lake Oroville. It's California's second-largest reservoir, and it was 88% full after recent rains. Much farther south, on the Cuyama River, we got a look at Twitchell Reservoir — more than half full after nearly emptying out a few months ago. In Kern County, the highway ran across the California Aqueduct, which will carry all that Sierra snowmelt — the stuff I played in near Donner Pass — down to L.A. County, so I can brush my teeth and stay hydrated.

Our water systems have worked largely as intended for decades — but they weren't built for the 21st century. What happens when drought returns? Will some dams become useless walls that block fish passage? Will enough Angelenos have torn out their lawns to make a serious dent in water demand? Will enough farmers have stopped growing alfalfa with Colorado River water?

And what about our energy systems? They're already changing.

Driving along Highway 166 in the southern San Joaquin Valley, I saw pumpjacks bobbing up and down, pulling crude oil from the ground — and solar panels covering farmland. A few days earlier, on the Pacific coast in Monterey, I'd gazed across the bay at the faint outline of smokestacks — part of a gas-plant site that's also now home to the world's largest lithium-ion batteries.

Farther south along the Central Coast, in Morro Bay, I stared up at three smokestacks along the water, just before sunset. They were part of a gas-fired power plant that shut down nearly a decade ago, and they're slated to be torn down themselves.

The towers are polluting relics from another era — except to some locals, who see them as "a cherished symbol of the town's working-class ethos" and are heartbroken to see them toppled, as The Times' Hailey Branson-Potts has written.

Life moves pretty fast. Sometimes, you've got to cherish it. And sometimes, you've got to let it go.

My last stop before returning to Los Angeles was Carrizo Plain National Monument, about 30 miles west of where Interstate 5 emerges from the Grapevine. It's the state's largest remaining native grassland, and one of many superbloom hot spots.

I'd read there were so many wildflowers at Carrizo Plain after recent rains that you could see them in satellite photos.

Suffice to say the national monument did not disappoint. The hillsides and valley floor were so densely packed with flowers that it looked as if an artist had taken a paintbrush to Carrizo Plain, bathing the landscape in yellows and oranges and blues.

Not every spring will be like this. Let's stop and look around while the looking is good.

This story was originally published in Boiling Point, an email newsletter about climate change and the environment in California and the American West. Go to latimes.com/boilingpoint to sign up.

Why few buyers of Ford F-150 will get EV tax credit

By Kyle Stock

Americans love a Ford pickup truck; it's one of the few constants of the car business. So it was a huge win last week when Ford's F-150 Lightning became one of just 10 vehicles to qualify for the full $7,500 in tax breaks laid out by the U.S. Inflation Reduction Act. Dozens of other electric cars and trucks didn't make the cut, either because they aren't manufactured in the U.S. or don't use American parts and pieces.

The tax credits also apply only to new EVs with a sticker price below $55,000, or trucks and SUVs priced less than $80,000. And that's where Americans' truck lust is butting up against their taste for high-end trims. Although the average gasoline-powered F-150 now sells for almost $63,000 — 25% more than five years ago — the electric version commands a premium of almost 30% over that, selling for $80,300 on average last month, according to Edmunds. That means roughly half of Ford's electric pickups are too fancy for federal incentives.

"Honestly, I'm not even sure you can order the lower-end models at the moment," said Zach Westrum, owner of Granger Motors, a Ford dealership near Des Moines. "We're about to find out very soon if these are just a second car for an affluent person or can become a primary car for a regular person."

The Lightning is sold in four layers of opulence ranging from $60,000 to $98,100, but only the most stripped-down configurations will get a federal kickback. Take the second most basic trim, dubbed the XLT in F-150-speak. The rig starts at $63,500, but choosing a bigger battery boosts the price to $81,000. The third-tier truck sneaks in just under the incentive ceiling at $78,400, but a couple of splurges — say, a tow package ($1,000), toolbox ($880) and charging cord ($500) — take it over the tax credit price ceiling.

At the moment, Ford doesn't have much incentive to stamp out more affordable trucks; its EV business is still grinding along well below profitability. What's more, the lack of tax breaks may not throttle demand much. Truck buyers and EV buyers are both relatively affluent demographics, and the Lightning is parked right in the middle of that Venn diagram.

Of the two dozen Lightnings that Granger Motors has sold, for example, not one qualified for federal subsidies. Most went to buyers who flew in from out of state to grab their new toy and drive it back to California, Colorado or Texas. "We've only had one local buyer — a contractor," Westrum said. "I think he just thought it was really cool."

The other nine EVs that qualify for federal incentives aren't moving the emissions needle very far either. Three of them — Chevrolet's Blazer, Equinox and Silverado — have yet to be delivered to buyers. Two of the eligible vehicles still burn gasoline: the hybrid Chrysler Pacifica and the Lincoln Aviator. Nix all those options and the aspiring subsidy hunter is left with a couple of Teslas and the humble Chevrolet Bolt.

To be sure, the rebate funnel will widen considerably over time. Car companies are already tearing up factory plans and redirecting capital to EV plants and parts pipelines based in the U.S. Most recently, Volkswagen said it would build a $2-billion factory in South Carolina to launch its new brand of electric SUVs, Scout Motors. "We view it simplistically a little bit like the Gold Rush," Scout Chief Executive Scott Keogh said in March. "There's never been a better time to build a factory in America."

Alas, those new Scouts won't hit the road until 2026.

Stock writes for Bloomberg.

Tesla investors seek to end Musk multitasking

Electric car maker's CEO is distracted by also running SpaceX and Twitter, they say.

By Dana Hull

Chandan Khanna AFP/Getty Images

TESLA is worth half of its $1.2-trillion market cap on April 4, 2022, when Elon Musk first disclosed his stake in Twitter Inc., a group of shareholders pointed out.

A group of Tesla investors has accused the company of mismanagement and is seeking a meeting with its board to discuss the performance of Chief Executive Elon Musk.

The 17 shareholders, who hold more than $1.5 billion of Tesla stock, said Musk is distracted by his commitments to other companies and must be reined in, according to an open letter they sent Friday to Chairwoman Robyn Denholm and Director Ira Ehrenpreis. They want the board to come up with a plan to do so and seek to remove directors too closely tied to the CEO.

"There is collective frustration," said Ivan Frishberg, chief sustainability officer for Amalgamated Bank, a union-owned bank that has 722,070 shares in Tesla across its various funds. "Over the last year, it became quite clear that Tesla suffers from a governance problem."

Tesla didn't respond to a request for comment about the letter.

Although governance complaints are nothing new for Tesla, they only add to the list of challenges facing the EV maker. Last week, the company reported lackluster first-quarter earnings after aggressive price cuts it undertook to fend off competitors squeezed profits. Musk said he plans to slash prices further, even if it hurts margins, sending the stock plunging more than 10% on Thursday.

Amalgamated Bank, New York City pension funds and other signatories to the letter want Musk to focus so he can navigate the increasingly competitive EV market and regulatory scrutiny. The company is facing investigations by the U.S. Department of Justice, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and California's Department of Motor Vehicles over its autopilot system.

While Tesla's stock plummeted Thursday, the billionaire CEO was watching a rocket from another company he founded and runs — SpaceX — explode above Boca Chica, Texas, shortly after liftoff.

The Austin, Texas, carmaker is now worth half its $1.2-trillion market cap on April 4, 2022, when Musk first disclosed his stake in Twitter Inc., the investors pointed out. He ultimately bought the social media company and has run it since October.

"It is unprecedented to be a CEO and also be running two other companies at the same time," said Courtney Wicks, executive director of Investor Advocates for Social Justice, which represents several faith-based investors. "I can't imagine any other board allowing a CEO to have as many outside business activities."

Earlier this year, another Tesla investor — who isn't associated with the letter — filed a resolution asking the company to create a plan to address its reliance on Musk. Tesla's board has recommended shareholders vote against the proposal at the company's May 16 annual meeting. Although those types of resolutions face a tough road to success, the carmaker's poor recent stock performance may rankle investors otherwise inclined to side with the company.

Some of the shareholders who signed on to the letter have brought resolutions to the company's annual meeting in the past.

This year's proxy contains just one resolution, down from eight in 2022 — in large part because news Tesla was rescheduling the meeting was buried in a regulatory filing.

The letter goes on to list other issues that the investors argue put the company at risk. Among them: the company's litigation with the state of California over the treatment of Black employees at Tesla's Fremont factory, the use of mandatory arbitration and the termination of employees who were involved in a union organizing effort in Buffalo, N.Y.

The group also criticized Tesla for opening a showroom in Urumqi, the capital of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region in China. Activists and politicians have accused China of committing human rights abuses in the area.

OPINION

EDITORIAL

No phoning it in. If you run a city, you need to show up

For public meetings to remain public, government officials should still have to be there in person.

RINGO H.W. CHIU Associated Press

PEOPLE HOLD signs and shout slogans as they protest before the cancellation of the Los Angeles City Council meeting on Oct. 12.

THERE'S A SERIOUS wave of COVID nostalgia going around. Many officials who sit on local government bodies like city councils yearn for the days when they didn't have to physically appear at public meetings.

By executive order issued in the early days of the pandemic, Gov. Gavin Newsom suspended key parts of the Ralph M. Brown Act and the Bagley-Keene Act — the open-meeting laws that apply to local and state government, respectively. Elected officials phoned (or Zoomed, or telecommuted, or whatever) into their meetings. Many liked doing their work from the comfort of home.

So did members of the public, once local governments finally caught up with 21st century technology and made fully public remote meetings possible.

But now the pandemic is over, Newsom has rescinded his emergency order and elected officials have to show up at meetings again.

Some don't like getting back on the freeway, and some surely don't enjoy being scolded in person by members of the public. It's the modern era, they argue, and we should act like modern adults and conduct all of our meetings electronically. After all, doing city, county, school or other public business that way during the pandemic allowed more access than ever to members of the public who could participate without fighting traffic, finding child care or taking off a morning from work. Everyone could take part in civic business from the couch, the car or the kitchen table. Why not make that permanent?

Lawmakers have introduced a slew of bills to pick away at post-pandemic public meeting requirements and at least in part bring back remote meetings. Assembly Bill 1379 would require city councils and other local bodies to have only two in-person meetings a year, unless they want more. AB 817 would exempt from in-person meetings any "subsidiary body," like a city council committee or advisory committee. Senate Bill 537 would exempt bodies made up of officials from more than one agency, such as the Metropolitan Water District or Metro boards. AB 1275 would exempt student-run community college organizations, even if they make decisions about use of public funds.

But hold on a minute. Remote access to public meetings for members of the public, as an additional option, is one thing. Remote access for the officials, on the other hand, is another. It simply makes them more — remote.

It increases the gulf between the people and their representatives. The option to either walk in or call in rightfully belongs to the public, not their elected or appointed leaders. There is a world of difference between sitting in the same room with officials as they discuss how to spend your money and operate your government, and merely watching them Zoom in from their living room — or financial donor's estate or beach blanket in Tulum or Ibiza — without being able to see who else may be in that room, estate or blanket with them, giving them directions on what to say or how to vote.

Being able to sit in the same room with public officials, see them and question them face to face, in real life, as they consider public policies is an essential element of democracy. It is as fundamental as a criminal defendant's right to see, and question, accusing witnesses in a courtroom.

Backers of these bills and other attempts to dismantle open-meeting laws say that remote access means people with mobility limits or family obligations that keep them at home can finally serve as members of government bodies.

But they already can. A law passed last year, AB 2449, allows meetings to go forward when a particular member has just cause (as carefully defined in the law) to call in, as long as there is a quorum physically present at the meeting. It's an experiment that has been in effect less than four months. Lawmakers should give it at least a year to see how it works before picking apart open-meeting laws.

Temporary stay-at-home orders were no boon for democracy. Giving the public more options to keep tabs on their leaders is worth hanging on to. Giving those same leaders options for avoiding the public was a consequence we lived with only because we had to. Now that we don't, we shouldn't permanently roll back open-meeting laws that have protected the public for three-quarters of a century.

LETTERS

MEL MELCON Los Angeles Times

NATURALISTS HIKE in the Verdugo Mountains at the site of a proposed luxury housing development. The naturalists and community groups oppose the project and are calling for a new environmental impact report.

New suburban housing in the hills — really?

Re "Contesting a long-planned Verdugo Mountains project," April 20

THANK YOU FOR THE EXCELLENT ARTICLE about the threat to the Verdugo Mountains posed by the Canyon Hills luxury housing project.

We're grappling with a human-caused climate crisis. It would be madness to destroy extensive natural carbon sinks.

We're also experiencing the planet's sixth mass extinction, another human-caused event threatening biodiversity. Reduced biodiversity contributes to unstable and unhealthy ecosystems.

The government's primary obligation is to protect people, or at least it ought to be. The city of Los Angeles has the opportunity to discharge that obligation, in part, by requiring a new environmental impact report.

We should study, as part of the report, public acquisition of privately held land in the Verdugo Mountains for a wildlife sanctuary. L.A. is park poor, and this could help ensure that the land remains wild to help cool L.A.'s heat island and clean its filthy air.

ROBERT LEYLAND MONEFELDT, Los Angeles

The L.A. City Council approved the Canyon Hills environmental impact report in 2005. Eighteen years is a lifetime in terms of environmental planning, and the fire risk that Canyon Hills poses to extant neighborhoods is beyond irresponsible.

When we talk about the need to build housing, this is the opposite of what we mean. Constructing resilient communities for the future demands building up, not out.

Just months after the death of P-22, are we seriously debating whether mountain lions have the right to exist in this region? Are we seriously about to play with this level of fire danger?

WALDEN CORCORAN
Valley Glen

The problem with construction in that hillside location is not the flammable plants. That would be mitigated to some degree by what we have seen in our suburbs for many decades: Scrap the native plants and install wide asphalt streets, with curbs and manicured grass.

A better solution is to ban housing construction that includes lumber framing. Few other advanced countries build homes that contain dry lumber in walls and trusses.

Wood is cheap, and homebuilders are stuck in their ways. Result: The United States ranks 59th in the world in fire safety, calculated as fire deaths per 100,000 people.

Our houses last for decades. Other developed countries build with masonry, steel and concrete, which last for centuries.

MIKE RODDY
Alameda

Avoid school, church, work ...

Re " 'Stand your ground' back in spotlight," April 21

This is America. To avoid getting shot, please adhere to the following:

Do not attend school. Do not go to college. Do not drive a car or ride in one. Don't be a pedestrian or enter a movie theater. Or a restaurant. Never attend concerts. Do not stay home (stray bullet) or go out (stray bullet).

Do not have a job. If you do, stay away from people being fired. Do not go to a hair salon or grocery store. Don't get married or divorced.

Do not attend religious services. Don't knock on doors or drive up the wrong driveway.

And remember, "stand your ground" is for the guy holding the gun, not you.

Seek out America's safe zones: Gun shows, gun stores, National Rifle Assn. rallies and white supremacist marches.

STEPHEN C. LEE
La Habra

::

I don't think "stand your ground" rules are the issue in the recent spate of people shooting others who posed no threat to them.

"Stand your ground" means only that a person who, without fault, reasonably believes that he is faced with an actual threat of death or great bodily harm need not retreat. That has been the rule in California for more than 100 years. (See the California case People vs. Hecker from 1895.)

The problem is shootings by those who do not reasonably believe they are threatened. This is rooted in the overriding and unreasonable fear of others, which has been stoked by the NRA and craven politicians who cry, "Crime! Crime! You need a gun!" even in the face of the fact that the violent crime rate in the U.S. has been steadily declining for decades, and is now about half of what it was in 1990.

JOHN HAMILTON SCOTT
Sherman Oaks

::

Gun owners tell us that gun owners are good, law-abiding citizens. And they are, until they aren't. Then people die.

Then gun owners (and legislators) shrug their shoulders and give us "thoughts and prayers." And do absolutely nothing.

LANORE PEARLMAN
Claremont

Leaky low-level IT workers

Re "How could an airman leak data without the Pentagon knowing?" Opinion, April 18

There are two important aspects of security not mentioned in this article.

First, there are too many items that are classified, which leads to a lack of resources for protecting information that is truly important. Experts have estimated that up to 90% of documents that are classified do not need to be.

Second is the lack of layering. In the case of the latest leak allegedly by 21-year-old Air National Guardsman Jack Teixeira and the infamous case of Edward Snowden, both were perpetrated by low-level information technology personnel who were given access to work on the physical computers the data were on.

Just encrypting the data on the computers would have seriously hindered the leaks, because the IT personnel would not have had an idea of what files were worth copying.

Furthermore, having those IT people supervised by higher-level personnel to make sure nothing illicit could take place would help. How likely would leaks by an IT person be with both those layers in place?

MICHAEL LAMPEL
Granada Hills

::

A solution to addressing the unauthorized release of classified information may rest in the "two-man rule," currently used to protect, for instance, nuclear weapons.

Requiring the sign-off of a second knowledgeable person for top-secret access might be costly and burdensome. But when weighed against the cost of these leaks — and yes, the cost of granting a clearance to a 21-year-old service member in the first place — it might be a bargain.

TRISH KELLY
Corona

::

Re "Whistleblower or traitor? How to think about leakers," Opinion, April 21

Nicholas Goldberg committed an offense by even mentioning Daniel Ellsberg and Edward Snowden in the same sentence.

Ellsberg revealed lies about illegal actions in the Vietnam War. He turned himself in to face the legal consequences, because he thought it was worth it.

Snowden revealed what anyone who reads the Congressional Record could have realized if they assumed the National Security Agency was doing what we told them to do. Then he turned tail with stolen intelligence and fled, ultimately to Russia. He still refuses to face the consequences, presumably because he thinks it's not worth it.

Mentioning Aldrich Ames and Snowden in the same sentence was appropriate, however; both were self-serving. Ellsberg is a true patriot.

DAVE SUESS
Redondo Beach

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CHRISTINA HOUSE Los Angeles Times

BAD BUNNY performs at the first weekend of the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival.

Superstar Bad Bunny stays true to himself at Coachella

JEAN GUERRERO

A DOZEN ROWS from Coachella's main stage, I sat on the grass hugging my knees to my chest as strangers pressed up against me, all awaiting the first Latin music act to ever headline the festival: Bad Bunny.

I was crammed with the Puerto Rican superstar's most devoted Coachella fans, willing to endure two hours of bodily contortions from the end of the preceding act to the start of his performance for close-up views of Benito Antonio Martínez Ocasio. I was having second thoughts about the physical sacrifice, but we were so tightly packed it would have been impossible to escape.

It was my first time at Coachella. I'd always seen the festival as too costly and corporate. But this lineup was interesting to me, the most diverse in its two-decade history, topped by a political icon from my mother's island. I'd come with two of my best friends; we'd awoken at the campgrounds that morning to a woman loudly mistranslating Bad Bunny's lyrics.

I was never a fan of reggaeton until I heard Bad Bunny's political songs. "El Apagón," about Puerto Rico's ongoing blackouts and colonial status and about how everybody wants to be Latino but they lack *sazón* (a spice blend my abuelita always uses), lit a Boricua pride in me, which can be hard to sustain in California, where only 0.6% of people are Puerto Rican and most know little about the U.S. colony.

Like many fans, I was curious to see how political he'd get. There have been rumors that he's dating Kendall Jenner, who is seen by some people as a queen of cultural appropriation. It fueled speculation that he might abandon anticolonial activism and lose touch with Puerto Rico now that he owns a mansion in L.A. and is a mega-celebrity.

Awaiting his set, I chatted with others in the crowd. One person I met, Vivian Gomez, 37, a Mexican American resident of Orange County, told me Bad Bunny opened her eyes to Puerto Rico's plight. "I didn't know there were colonizers taking over and pushing out Puerto Ricans," she said.

She sees parallels between the displacement shown in his "El Apagón: Aquí Vive Gente" documentary-music video and gentrification in Mexico, where she was born. She hopes Bad Bunny's artistry inspires people to respect Latin America and its people. "We have a lot more to offer than just bocaditos and tacos and tequila," she said.

Others around us weren't as interested in politics. Behind me, Isaac Guerra, 20, a Mexican American in a Bad Bunny T-shirt, told me he's all about the beat. "It makes you want to just start dancing, you know?" He also likes the singer's fashion, which defies gender norms. "I wouldn't normally dress like him, but I think it's really dope."

Bad Bunny has become the world's most-streamed artist, adored even by non-Spanish speakers because of his catchy rhythms, boundary-blurring authenticity and more. Another fan I talked to was Quincie Onyejekwe, 34, from Nigeria. "I have no idea what he's saying, but I'm vibing," she told me. "As he sings, you feel what he's singing." He gives her hope for other non-Anglo headliners from across the world. "He's showing that you can sing in your own language and people can still vibe."

Around 11:30 p.m., Benito's voice washed over the crowd, which erupted in ecstasy. In a sultry tone, he gave an ode to Coachella as a place of first kisses, of first getaways, of finding ourselves and the answers to our questions.

He reveled in the significance of the moment: the first time a Spanish-language artist has headlined here. "*De tantas y tantos, nunca antes hubo uno como yo*" (Of so many, there's never before been one like me), he said, to screams.

Suddenly he appeared, his luxurious, colorful puffer jacket exposing his tattooed chest. The entire crowd was up dancing, electrified and singing along to "Tití Me Preguntó." Most people seemed to know every word. A lump formed in my throat as I recalled growing up at the height of English-only nativism and attending a grade school that forbade speaking Spanish, my native language.

Briefly, he spoke English. "I want to know somethin' before I keep going with me show — with my show." He paused. "What do you prefer? Me talkin' in English *o hablando en español?*" People shrieked: "Español!"

Later, Coachella's huge screens showed the histories of salsa and reggaeton, born of Black people resisting oppression in the Caribbean. The team consulted with Petra R. Rivera-Rideau, author of "Remixing Reggaetón," about reggaeton's history. "I've been to a lot of reggaeton concerts in my life and I've never seen a video like that," she told me.

Vanessa Díaz, who teaches a Bad Bunny course at Loyola Marymount University and created a "Bad Bunny Syllabus" with Rivera-Rideau, says the videos show he's staying true to his roots. "He did that for Puerto Rico," she said. "He cares about the fact that the performance was being streamed all over the island, and every single person in Puerto Rico who saw that was proud and excited and felt represented."

Eventually during the show, Bad Bunny got vulnerable, saying he was bewildered by stuff he read online. He reassured us that he knew exactly who he was and his purpose, which he swore he'd fulfill: "*Sé cual es mi propósito en la tierra y se los juro que lo voy a cumplir*" (I know what my purpose on this Earth is, and I swear to you I'll fulfill it).

What does the Boricua luminary see as his purpose? He didn't say.

Instead, he introduced "El Apagón" as the song that fills him with more pride than anything else in the world. He performed it, and those of us who understood it as the beginning of his answer went wild.

@jeanguerre

Reset the traffic lights to cater to pedestrians and cyclists, not cars

By Michael Schneider

IN PREPARATION for the 1984 Olympics, Los Angeles wanted to improve traffic flow and make moving around the city easier for athletes and visitors. To achieve that, the city developed the Automated Traffic Surveillance and Control System, or ATSAC for short. The goal? Move traffic more "dynamically" by synchronizing signals and changing signal timing based on traffic patterns, so drivers had a more predictable, smoother experience.

Back in the 1980s, Los Angeles, the state of California and the entire country used a concept called "level of service" to judge transportation projects. If someone wanted to build a new apartment building, or if the city was considering a new crosswalk, the impact to the level of service to drivers was measured.

The goal was to have an "A" level of service, which meant free-flowing traffic, without bottlenecks or gridlock. Projects that would have slowed traffic — even if they might encourage someone to travel outside of a car — were often killed in the name of driver convenience.

There was a trade-off to "level of service" thinking: Because car movement was so prioritized, movement for everyone else was deprioritized. Pedestrians were made to wait a long time to cross a street if they happened to arrive just after the light changed. Cyclists had virtually no dedicated infrastructure, because a dedicated bike lane might slow drivers down or reduce lanes or parking available to drivers.

> L.A.'s automated signal system was designed four decades ago to give drivers priority. We can't afford to do that anymore.

And transit riders often found their buses sharing lanes with people driving private vehicles, even though a dedicated bus lane would be much more efficient.

Today, ATSAC — the largest system of its kind in the country — largely remains the same as it was back in the 1980s. While we've added more detector loops and cameras to measure vehicle traffic, the goal largely remains the same: move as many cars as quickly as possible.

Synchronized traffic signals, while sounding appealing to drivers, aren't always in their best interest. When drivers see a bunch of green lights in a row on streets built like highways (most major streets in the city of Los Angeles), they often speed down them, sometimes with deadly results. Speeding, in fact, has gotten worse since the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our city has evolved significantly since the early 1980s. We now have a quickly growing Metro rail system, an expanding network of bus-only lanes and a small but growing network of bike lanes. In short, we've moved from a car-dominated city to a more multimodal city.

The traffic lights just haven't kept up. The city should align ATSAC with our larger goals of helping people use cars less, especially for shorter trips, and to get to and from Metro stations without using a car at all (called "first/last mile"). More people would walk more places if signals responded quickly when they pushed a button to cross the street. Angelenos would be more likely to use a bike to get around if we had a network of safe bike lanes that included sensors and responsive signals (such as what Santa Monica has implemented). More people would use the bus if it had priority at intersections and got to its destination faster than private vehicles; a case in point is the G (Orange) Line in the San Fernando Valley, where the bus runs on a dedicated right-of-way but often stops at red lights so cars can cross.

It just makes sense for our traffic light system to prioritize pedestrians and cyclists over motorists. Half the year, it's blazing hot in Los Angeles, yet our traffic light system favors those who are comfortably resting in metal boxes with air conditioning.

The other half of the year, it's colder (and, if this past winter is any indication, often raining), and yet traffic signals still err on the side of motorists rather than the travelers who are exposed to the elements.

In a rethought approach to traffic signals, we should have more intersections with scramble crosswalks, where pedestrians can cross freely in all directions at once, while cars are completely stopped. We need more intersections with dedicated bike boxes (and bike signals) that prioritize those walking and cycling (such as the one on Rosewood at La Brea).

Across the city, we need to change our signals to be free running, meaning they react quickly to demand or change on a schedule instead of trying to synchronize and give drivers a long runway to speed. We used schedules early in the pandemic at nearly all signals, so people didn't have to touch pedestrian crossing buttons — so this isn't a difficult change to imagine or institute.

If Los Angeles is serious about its residents walking, biking and using transit more, then it needs to get serious about prioritizing these alternative modes of transportation. This is especially true for shorter trips — and 50% of outings that Americans (including Angelenos) make each day are three miles or less.

We need intersections that reward residents for not using a car. Though optimizing vehicle traffic flow is important, optimizing our traffic light system for the flow of people is more important.

MICHAEL SCHNEIDER is the founder of Streets for All.

I grew up next to an L.A. oil well. Let's protect others from the risk

By Nalleli Cobo

I GREW UP 30 feet from an oil well. We couldn't open the windows of our South L.A. home because of what was in the air. I couldn't play outside for more than a few minutes without feeling sick.

At the age of 9, I started organizing to shut down the drilling that was making me, my mother, my sister and our community sick. I helped found a grassroots campaign called "People Not Pozos," Spanish for "wells." Over a decade later, it's a campaign I and others are continuing across California as toxic drilling continues in our midst.

When I was about 11, I was diagnosed with asthma. By the time I turned 19, we had shut down the drilling in our South L.A. neighborhood, but not before I was diagnosed with Stage 2 reproductive cancer. I lost my ability to bear children as a result.

After three surgeries, eight minor procedures, three rounds of chemotherapy and six weeks of radiation, I was cancer-free as of two years ago, at 20.

My experience, like that of others who live in neighborhoods polluted by oil drilling, is a constant reminder that those in power do not value our health and well-being. It's a signal that some communities are expendable, that our lives don't matter as much as the fossil fuel industry's profits.

Last year, the California Legislature and Gov. Gavin Newsom finally acted to protect people in communities like mine. They enacted Senate Bill 1137, by Sen. Lena Gonzalez (D-Long Beach), which prohibits new oil extraction within 3,200 feet of a home, school or community. But the oil industry responded by spending tens of millions of dollars to qualify a ballot referendum that puts the law on hold until voters can decide the issue in November 2024.

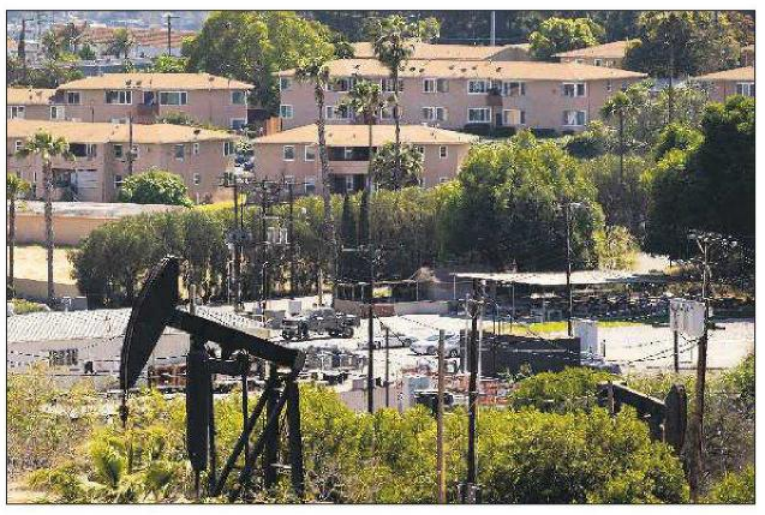
Meanwhile, the drilling goes on, putting more people at risk.

It's time for the Legislature to go further. A bill up for its first committee hearing Tuesday would help hold oil drillers legally responsible for the harms they cause by drilling so close to where people live. SB 556, also by Gonzalez, would make oil drillers presumptively liable for illnesses linked to their operations within the setback zone.

Scientific evidence cited in the record supporting the setback legislation shows that living near oil and gas production increases the risk of asthma, other respiratory problems, preterm births, high-risk pregnancies and cancer.

Stanford researchers found in a 2020 study that pregnant women who lived near oil wells in the San Joaquin Valley were up to 14% more likely to experience a spontaneous preterm birth, the leading cause of infant death, and that the repercussions were most pronounced among Latina and Black women. A 2021 review of studies by World Health Organization researchers found that people who live near oil and gas drilling are exposed to harmful pollution and at greater risk of developing several different types of cancer. And a California Geologic Energy Management Division scientific advisory panel concluded with a "high level of certainty" the same year that living near oil and gas extraction is associated with "adverse perinatal and respiratory outcomes."

SB 556 would help Californians who develop such conditions hold oil drillers responsible if they have lived within 3,200 feet of extraction and companies did not use the best available technologies to protect them. Fossil fuel drillers operating within the setback zones would face penalties of $250,000 to $1 million in addition to damages if they can't prove they took measures to mitigate pollution or that something else caused the condition.



JAE C. HONG Associated Press

APARTMENT BUILDINGS behind pump jacks at the Inglewood Oil Field. New legislation would address the issue.

The legislation would essentially shift the burden of proof from communities to polluters. If oil drillers choose to continue to ignore the scientific evidence that they're sickening surrounding communities, they would assume the risk of significant legal and financial penalties.

Protecting us with laws like SB 556 is the job we elected lawmakers to do. All Californians have a right to breathe clean air, drink clean water and live in a healthy environment. But those with the least resources and political power are most likely to bear the brunt of pollution and climate change.

In the Los Angeles Basin alone, 1.7 million people live within a mile of an active oil or gas well, more than 200,000 live within 2,500 feet, and more than 32,000 within 328 feet.

Oil drillers claim that restricting crude oil production will raise California's already high gasoline prices. But economists say the state's gas prices have nothing to do with local production levels.

We can't continue to prioritize corporate profits over the health and well-being of Californians. The fight to put people before *pozos* persists.

NALLELI COBO is an environmental justice advocate and the winner of the 2022 Goldman Environmental Prize for North America.

Photographs by MYUNG J. CHUN Los Angeles Times

L.A. RESIDENT Gordafarid performs Naqqali, an Iranian storytelling art historically reserved for men, at a Persian New Year event March 19 in West Hollywood.

Reciting ancient epics to spur a modern one

[**Gordafarid,** from A1]
stomping and pantomime, she captivates the audience as she has others for more than 25 years, with tales from the Shahnameh — the national epic poem of Iran completed by the poet Ferdowsi in the year 1010.

For centuries, skilled Iranian storytellers known as Naqqals have transfixed audiences in traditional coffeehouses with stories from the 50,000-verse Shahnameh, but historically it was an art performed by men, for men. Gordafarid, whose life story is an epic in itself, is the first known female Naqqal to have learned the craft the traditional way, from the Morsheds, or Naqqali masters.

Gordafarid's fearlessness and determination have made her a beacon of inspiration to Iranian audiences around the world at a time when female-led protests have erupted across her homeland after the death in custody last year of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini, arrested by Iran's morality police for allegedly not covering her hair properly.

"When you hear a young lady like Gordafarid, who is so devoted to preserving the heritage that the Islamic Republic has tried very hard to annihilate over the years, it is reminiscent of what we're seeing from the youngsters on the streets of Iran," said Zohreh Mizrahi, an immigration lawyer in L.A. who served as emcee for the Nowruz event. "People feel like there is hope, and we see that hope in her."

Gordafarid moved to Los Angeles from Tehran in 2010, after the government banned her from speaking in public. People often cry when they see her perform.

"I think I touch their heart with my energy because I am onstage with all of myself, all of my soul, in every word," she said.

The night of the Nowruz celebration she explained the origins of the festival as a tribute to Jamshid, whom the Shanameh describes as the greatest Iranian king. Then she told the story of another ancient king who stumbled across a beautiful palace while searching for his mythical horse, Rakhsh. In rhyming couplets, she described the wonders of the castle, speaking faster and faster until the audience stood on its feet, applauding with awe.

"It's incredible, just incredible," said Saleh Mishael of West Hollywood, who was wearing a deep V-neck top and black leather skirt. "The way she was saying all the adjectives and that she memorized it all, it was incredible."

After a buffet dinner, Gordafarid returned to the stage to tell the story of her namesake — the female warrior Gordafarid, who rode into battle to defend her country when the men were too afraid to fight.

Even a non-Persian speaker could make out the key elements of the tale — Gordafarid donning a helmet to obscure her femininity, riding her horse fearlessly into battle, sending her arrows flying through the wind. When her attacker finally removes her helmet with a spear, he is stunned to discover his adversary is a beautiful young woman with long, flowing hair.

"Like Joan of Arc in Western culture, Gordafarid epitomizes the character and strength of women from ancient times," Mizrahi said. "Any time you deal with a woman who is very strong and very determined, and not afraid of anything, we call her a Gordafarid."

A few weeks after the performance, the modern-day Gordafarid (she officially changed her name to Gord Afarid after receiving U.S. citizenship) pushed a basket of flatbread to the side at a Persian restaurant near her home in Encino and apologized. "It's not fresh," she said. "I don't know why."

Then she opened Google Translate on a silver laptop to help her more accurately express herself in English as she prepared to tell her own story.

It begins in the city of Ahvaz in the southwest of Iran, where she grew up the daughter of a farmer and a homemaker, the eldest of five children. The 1979 Islamic Revolution began two years after she was born, and for the next nine years, Ahvaz, which sits near the Iraqi border, was engulfed in war. On her computer she calls up photos of tanks in city streets, men with large guns, piles of rubble where buildings once stood.

"I remember all of this," she said, scrolling through the images. "A lot of rockets, a lot of people died; some of my family died. That's why I say, my city was so beautiful, but after the war. ... I remember all these things."

Her family members, most of whom still live in Ahvaz, are Muslim, but in her teens she decided she didn't like religion. When her father tried to force her to marry at 15, she refused. She rebelled at school, but always loved theater and tales of adventure.

Many Iranians grow up hearing the stories of the Shahnameh, known in English as the Book of Kings, from their parents. But Gordafarid knew only the few tales she learned at school. It wasn't until 1998, when she was a university student in Tehran, that she saw her first Naqqali performance. She was drawn to it instantly.

"In its own way, it is a one-person theater," she said, stirring a pat of butter into her white- and saffron-colored Persian rice. "A Naqqal edits his own scripts, directs the performance himself, and creates various characters. He does not hesitate to imitate the lion's roar, the horse's neigh, and the roar of the dragon."

She asked the performer — a student himself — to teach her Naqqali, and after just a few lessons she was invited to perform at a private salon for 300 people. A friend introduced her, and let the spectators know they were about to witness something historic: The first woman known to perform Naqqali before an audience.

Gordafarid remembers stepping quickly onto the stage and beginning with a traditional song, from which she took courage. Then she recited from the Shahnameh for the next half-hour.

"It was my first time in front of people, and they were shocked because I memorized 30 minutes of Shahnameh," she said. "They clapped for me, and then they got my phone number."

She met her mentor, the late Naqqali master Morshed Torabi, a few months later. She had been invited to give a public Naqqali performance for Nowruz, but because reporters and news cameras were going to be present, this time she felt she needed help.

The men at the theater building where Torabi worked refused to give her his phone number because she is a woman. "They were closed-minded," Gordafarid said. "They made excuses, like, 'He doesn't have a phone.' " Eventually she found his number and called him. "His voice was warm and scratchy," she said. "A rusty voice."

She told him she needed a toomar, or traditional Naqqali script, that would be appropriate for Nowruz. He told her she must recite the story of Jamshid and how the festival came about. She asked if she could come meet him, and he agreed.

She traveled across town to the same theater building where she had originally been turned away. They spoke for a few minutes, and then he handed her a few lines written on a piece of paper — a brief outline of what she should say.

"Morshed said, based on this summary of explanations, '*You* write, *you* edit, *you* organize your own toomar,' " Gordafarid said. "He was very rough and tough."

Soon she was following Torabi around the city, silently taking notes on his performances in the all-male spaces where Naqqali is traditionally done. Although he let her know where he would be, he did not offer to teach her. "He was very impatient, so I didn't ask him any questions," she said. "I was very patient, and I had a lot of respect for him."

One day an old man at a traditional coffeehouse asked the Naqqal about the girl in the corner. Torabi thought and thought. "She is my student," he said at last.

"It was hard for him because it is taboo," she said. "But he admitted he had never seen so much follow-up, effort and respect from his male students."

Two years later, at the famous City Theater in Tehran, Torabi presented Gordafarid with his sturdy wooden cane — a public acknowledgment that she was not just his student, but his heir.

"Always when I have a goal, I focus on it with all my cells," she said. "Everything. And maybe I don't care if it is a taboo or not. Several times I broke taboos, not just this. I fought with my father, the city, school rules, because everywhere was a dictatorship."

As a scholar and performer of Naqqali, she traveled across Iran to study with other teachers. She spent four hours a day strengthening her voice and taught Naqqali to others. She performed in front of audiences of tens of thousands and received a certificate signed by the top Naqqals in the country declaring her to be the first female Naqqal in Iranian history.

Naqqali was placed on the UNESCO list of intangible cultural heritage in need of urgent safeguarding in 2011; photos and video of Gordafarid's performances were included alongside those of other masters.

But around 2009 and 2010 she found it increasingly difficult to find work in Iran. In addition to performing Naqqali, she also worked as a writer, programmer and presenter for television and radio. Along with many other women, she was banned from working in those fields by an increasingly conservative government.

"In that time it was forbidden for a woman to raise her voice in public, and I did, a lot," she said.

Falling into a depression, she decided to move to Los Angeles, wondering if she would have to take a job at McDonald's.

Instead, she started getting Naqqali work in L.A., which is home to more than 130,000 Iranians, the largest population outside of Iran. She was invited to perform at museums, universities, for cultural federations. She toured Europe and Canada.

"That was good," she said, as she cut into the sweet and sticky zoolbia, a crispy fried dough dessert at the Encino restaurant. "I thought maybe they will forget me in history, but no."

Last year, Gordafarid was commissioned by the Farhang Foundation, a nonprofit devoted to celebrating and promoting Iranian art and culture, to make a video in honor of the Iranian winter solstice holiday, Shab-e Yalda.

In the video, released on YouTube at the end of December, she is dressed in form-fitting black velvet with her signature bell sleeves and a thick belt around her waist. Images appear behind her to illustrate a different tale from the Shahnameh: The story of the malevolent King Zahhak, who falls under the sway of an evil spirit who curses him. The spirit makes two serpents grow out of his shoulders; they must feast each day on the brains of young people.

For some, the story serves as a gruesome metaphor for the Iranian government's deadly crackdown on the many young people who took to the streets last fall to protest the country's restrictive clerical rule after Amini's death. Government agents were responsible for the deaths of at least 44 children during the months-long uprising, with hundreds more detained, according to Amnesty International and other human rights groups.

Gordafarid whispers conspiratorially when she speaks as the flattering evil spirit. When she is Zahhak, her arms turn into two vicious snakes that hiss at the air.

"It's really a David and Goliath story, and it is very relatable to what is going on in Iran," said Alireza Ardekani, executive director of the Farhang Foundation. "The great thing about the epic Book of Kings is there's always a story that can be relatable to anything in life."

Gordafarid says she can never go back to Iran. "I would love to go, but I'm sure if I go there — straight to jail," she said.

She misses her home country, but she has made a life for herself in Los Angeles. When she is not performing Naqqali, she works as an occasional instructor for UCLA Extension, where she teaches Persian language, Naqqali and the Shahnameh. Recently, she was hired by Disney as a mythologist to advise writers on a project due out in 2024. And she makes ends meet by working as a medical assistant at an inpatient anorexia clinic.

In the meantime, she is an inspiration to a new generation of female Iranian artists, some of whom are incorporating the art of Naqqali into their own performances.

They may study her work on YouTube rather than at the traditional coffeehouses of Iran, but they, too, are learning the ancient art of Naqqali from a master.

> 'Any time you deal with a woman who is very strong and very determined, and not afraid of anything, we call her a Gordafarid.'
>
> — ZOHREH MIZRAHI, immigration lawyer in Los Angeles

CELEBRANTS CHEER for Gordafarid at a banquet hall adorned with the colors of spring. The fundraiser also featured performances by Iranian women who dance, drum and sing.

CAROLYN KASTER Associated Press

VICE PRESIDENT Kamala Harris, right, was the last Black woman to represent California in the U.S. Senate. Rep. Barbara Lee (D-Oakland), left, is one of three major candidates in the 2024 Senate campaign.

CAPITOL JOURNAL

Newsom could face tough task replacing Feinstein in Senate

He would need an experienced lawmaker willing to fill a short-time post

GEORGE SKELTON
IN SACRAMENTO

You'd think that filling a U.S. Senate seat would be easy, even fun. But if Gov. Gavin Newsom has to find a replacement for Sen. Dianne Feinstein, it could be agonizing.

Plenty of qualified people would leap at the chance to join the world's so-called greatest deliberative body, right?

Prestige, power, perks — a career highlight even if it were only a temporary job until someone else won the seat in the next election.

Wrong. Not in this particular case — at least for people prepared to adequately represent California in the manner it deserves as the nation's most populous state and the globe's fifth-largest economy.

Feinstein, 89, hasn't indicated she'll vacate the seat before her term expires at the end of next year. But she's being pressured to step down by some in her own party.

California's longest-serving senator has been recuperating from painful shingles for two months and has missed roughly 60 votes. They include several needed to approve President Biden's stymied federal judgeship nominations.

Feinstein says she's working at home in San Francisco. But she can't vote there. And her votes are sorely needed to move Biden's agenda in a Senate that Democrats control by only a two-vote edge.

There's no timetable for Feinstein's return to Washington.

Speculation about her bowing out began two years ago with reports of diminishing cognitive acuity. In February, Feinstein announced the expected: She wouldn't run for a sixth term next year.

A race was already underway to succeed her.

The question of whether Feinstein would — and should — retire before her term expires has been a hot topic among politicos. Her replacement until the next election would be chosen by the governor. But he isn't saying much publicly.

Newsom limited his options two years ago by promising to appoint a Black woman. There wasn't — still isn't — a Black female senator. The last one was California's Kamala Harris, who left to become vice president.

Newsom could have replaced Harris with another Black woman, but instead chose a longtime ally,

[See **Skelton,** B6]

DWP settles power line deaths lawsuit

Utility agrees to pay $38 million to family of man, daughter who were electrocuted.

BY DAVID ZAHNISER AND DAKOTA SMITH

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power has agreed to pay $38 million to settle a lawsuit filed after a father and daughter were electrocuted by a downed power line.

Ferdinand Tejada, 53, and his daughter, Janina Reyn Tejada, 20, were killed outside their Panorama City home in January 2021 after coming into contact with a high-voltage electrical wire that fell into their backyard. Two surviving family members, both of whom were witnesses, sued the DWP, saying the utility failed to properly maintain the pole that held the overhead wire in place.

In a statement, DWP officials expressed their "deepest condolences" to those family members, acknowledging they had experienced an "unfathomable" loss. Those officials said they have overhauled the utility's power pole inspection program and begun repairing those that pose the greatest risk.

"This is a tragedy," DWP General Manager Marty Adams said in an interview Sunday. "It's a tragedy that, at least in theory, we should have been able to foresee the possibility of this happening."

DWP officials said they launched an effort three weeks ago to repair about 1,600 of the utility's most dangerous power poles. Some have wood that is severely deteriorated, either in the poles or in the crossarms, which hold high-voltage wires in place, while others have electrical equipment that needs replacing, they said.

Utility crews have fixed more than half of those, replacing or repairing wires, electrical distribution equipment, cross-arms or the poles themselves.

On Sunday, the agency took an additional step, sending workers across the city to personally deliver notices to residents who live

[See **Settlement,** B5]

ROBERT GAUTHIER Los Angeles Times

DWP employees started repairing about 1,600 of the utility's most dangerous power poles three weeks ago.

Don't honk even if you love free speech, judges say

Appeals court panel sides against woman who was cited for supporting a protest.

BY CHRISTIAN MARTINEZ

Part of the soundtrack of Los Angeles is the sound of the myriad vehicles that make their way through the city every day — the hum of the engines, the music blaring from the radios and, of course, the honking of horns, often used to convey anger, approval and numerous other emotions.

But according to a ruling by a three-judge panel of the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, blaring a horn, whether in frustration when the 405 turns into a parking lot or in support of a group of demonstrators standing

[See **Honk,** B6]

Dragon's fire is real at Disneyland show

BY RACHEL URANGA

A fire erupted Saturday night during Disneyland's Fantasmic fireworks and light show, forcing throngs of stunned fans to evacuate the area.

Although the flames erupting from a 45-foot-tall animatronic dragon were dramatic, the Anaheim Fire Department said no injuries were reported, according to KABC.

"It was a big giant fireball. Then they began pushing people out," said Ryan Laux, 28, a Los Angeles video producer and an annual season passholder who was watching the show near Disneyland's Tom Sawyer Island when the fire broke out.

Laux estimated that about 1,000 park guests had

[See **Fantasmic,** B2]

Group disturbs Sherman Oaks library event

Protesters set off heated exchanges by claiming story hour led by a drag queen is "nightclub material." **B3**

Ailing sea lion is euthanized

Freeway, who was known for wandering far from the ocean, had a progressive disease, SeaWorld says. **B3**

Lottery **B2**

JAMES CARBONE Los Angeles Times en Español

ABOUT 15 masked protesters rush the small stage where archaeologist Richard Hansen was being interviewed by Times en Español columnist Alejandro Maciel.

Activists disrupt festival address by archaeologist

Demonstrators target Richard Hansen for his excavation and research at Maya site.

BY REED JOHNSON AND LAURA NEWBERRY

A melee broke out at the Los Angeles Times Festival of Books on Sunday evening when activists rushed the Español stage to protest a talk by archaeologist Richard Hansen.

The protesters were targeting Hansen's decades of excavation and research at a vast ancient Maya complex in Guatemala called El Mirador.

The group of about 15 masked protesters rushed the small stage where Hansen was being interviewed by L.A. Times en Español columnist Alejandro Maciel, whose Column One about Hansen's research was published this year in The Times.

The protesters toppled chairs, shouted "This is stolen land!" and "F— imperialism!" and unveiled a large banner that read "Gringo colonizer fuera del Mirador."

As stunned spectators looked on, a tussle broke out between the demonstrators and some of the event crew who were trying to clear the stage. One stage crew member emerged with a bloodied nose as police arrived quickly at the scene.

After several minutes during which protesters continued to shout at Hansen while police formed a line between the demonstrators and the stage, Hansen and Maciel were escorted to a nearby tent for event speakers.

The crowd eventually dissipated and the event ended.

Los Angeles Police Department Sgt. Gutierrez, who declined to give his first name, said that one person

[See **Hansen,** B4]

More coverage: Matthew Perry apologizes. **B4.** Authors strike poses. **CALENDAR, E3**

Literary hopes and big names at book fair

Stacey Abrams and Rep. Katie Porter are among luminaries at L.A. Times event.

BY JULIA WICK

Books quite literally surrounded Stacey Abrams as a child.

The daughter of a reference librarian, she would attend day care on the campus where her mother worked. The child-care center closed before her mother got off work, so Abrams would nap in the library stacks.

Her mother read to her and her five siblings throughout the week, and on Fridays, their father, a shipyard worker, would entertain the kids with his own fantastical stories — "a G-rated version of 'Game of Thrones,' " the two-time Georgia gubernatorial candidate said.

Because of her mother's read-aloud books and her father's extraordinary stories, the voting rights activist "grew up with a steep love, not only of reading but storytelling," she told a rapt crowd Sunday afternoon at the 43rd Los Angeles Times Festival of Books.

That love has propelled the politico's side career as an author — a career that includes romantic suspense novels written under a

[See **Books,** B4]

A landmark rooted in activism and art

San Diego's Chicano Park features scores of murals depicting strength and struggle.

By Maura Fox

Ana Ramirez San Diego Union-Tribune

DANZA AZTECA groups perform Saturday on Chicano Park Day in San Diego, where thousands gathered for the first time since 2019.

CASAS SI!! YANKEES NO!!
SAVE OUR BARRIO don't JUNK IT
CASAS SI YANKEES NO
JUNK YARDS ARE HAZARDOUS TO OUR KIDS!!
SALVAGE PEOPLE NOT PROFITS

San Diego Union-Tribune

IN THE 1950S, Logan Heights was rezoned and transformed from a mostly residential area to mixed use, where factories were built around homes. Here, activists protest the neighborhood's junkyards in 1978.

SAN DIEGO — Chicano Park in Barrio Logan is one of San Diego's most culturally significant landmarks, with a story rooted in collective activism and the power of art.

The park, situated beneath Interstate 5 and the onramps for the San Diego-Coronado Bridge, was established in 1970 as a result of protests not long after the bridge was completed. Today, it claims to have the largest collection of outdoor murals in the world, with more than 100 of them painted on the freeway pillars, depicting messages and images of strength, struggle and community in Indigenous, Mexican and Mexican American history.

"I consider the park to be a sacred space, and I say that because of the rich history behind it, with regard to the many steps and many stories and many activities that have happened here," said Alberto Pulido, a University of San Diego professor and member of the Chicano Park Steering Committee, which serves as the park's steward.

Just as the park is connected to the past, it's also closely linked to the current community, its ongoing activism and its future. There is a newly opened Chicano Park Museum and Cultural Center next door, and new murals are being painted, with many younger artists rising up to contribute.

Here's a look at the history and significance of the park, along with its artists, murals and hopes for the future.

History

In the early 1900s, Barrio Logan was part of a larger area known as Logan Heights. Its Mexican and Mexican American population grew as a result of immigration after the Mexican Revolution, as well as a development boom along the waterfront, which led to an increase in job and housing opportunities, according to a historical survey done for the city in 2011.

By the 1930s, the Great Depression had led to economic instability and Mexican workers faced racism, hostility and deportation. A report examining redlining practices in the 1930s in San Diego found that the area containing what's now known as Barrio Logan, Logan Heights and Grant Hill was given a D grade by the Federal Home Owners' Loan Corp., meaning it recommended its lenders refuse to give loans in the area, saying it was "occupied by mixed races, colored, Mexican, lower salaried white race, laborers."

During and after World War II, the Mexican American community in Logan Heights grew, in some cases because of the bracero program bringing in more workers from Mexico. In the 1950s, the neighborhood was rezoned and transformed from a mostly residential area to mixed use, where metal shops, junkyards and factories were built around homes. Highly industrialized, the neighborhood became "the city's auto junkyard capital." Heading into the 1960s, a social and economic protest movement was growing among Mexican Americans, many of whom preferred to use the term "Chicano."

In 1963, the California Department of Transportation built Interstate 5 through Logan Heights, followed by the San Diego-Coronado Bridge four years later, in effect cutting the neighborhood in half. The northernmost part was called Logan Heights and the southern part Barrio Logan. Thousands of residents whose homes were in the path of construction were forced to move.

A proposed highway patrol station in 1970 sparked a protest effort by Barrio Logan residents and Chicano activists, who occupied the park for 12 days until an agreement was reached among residents, state officials and the city of San Diego to support the creation of a community park.

Salvador Robert Torres, often referred to as the "architect of the dream," was the visionary for the park's design and murals, saying at the time that "Chicano artists and sculptors would turn the great columns of the bridge approach into things of beauty, reflecting Mexican American culture."

By 1973, mural projects had begun. In 2013, Chicano Park was added to the National Register of Historic Places, and in 2017 it was established as a National Historic Landmark. Today, the park is technically owned by the California Department of Transportation, though the artists own the murals.

"The revolutionary part of the park is that the vehicle of destruction, which was the bridge and the pillars, was redefined by the community and through the creative spirit of art," Pulido said. "And now it's ours."

Prominent artists

Over the last 53 years, more than 100 murals and sculptures have been created under the freeway overpasses, with new ones in the works. The pieces depict key moments in Indigenous history, revolutionary struggles and achievements, Chicano identity and important figures such as Che Guevara, Frida Kahlo and Emiliano Zapata.

The first mural painted in the park, in 1973, is "Historical Mural," on Logan Avenue on the side of the 5 Freeway onramp. Created by Toltecas en Aztlán, a collective of Chicano artists that also founded the Centro Cultural de la Raza in Balboa Park, the mural presents a sweeping history of Chicano culture and the contributions of Spanish, Mexican and Mexican American people.

One of the most well-known murals is "Hasta La Bahia" ("All the Way to the Bay"), which can be found toward the center of the park overlooking National Avenue. Painted by Victor Ochoa in 1978, it refers to a campaign throughout the 1970s and '80s to extend the park to San Diego Bay.

Ochoa, a pioneer in Chicano Park's history and community, has painted or contributed to dozens of murals in the park and served on the Chicano Park Steering Committee.

"I paint murals from the attitude of the '60s and '70s, which is kind of issue-oriented," Ochoa told the Union-Tribune in 2021. "I want people to be proud of who they are. The history of the community is really important to me."

Along with "Hasta La Bahia," Ochoa's other murals in the park include "Revolución Mexicana," completed in 1985, and "Brown Image," a tribute to Mexican American lowrider culture and the newest mural, completed in 2022. It was painted using airbrushing techniques with gold metal flakes, traditionally used on lowrider cars.

Mario Torero's "Colossus," painted in 1975, is another mural that shouldn't be missed, depicting an Atlas-like figure who seems to be holding up the freeway onramp. Like Ochoa, Torero is one of the park's original muralists and activists.

Women artists were also critical to the park's mural development. Yolanda Lopez was an accomplished muralist and advocate for young female artists, including a group called Mujeres Muralistas, who completed the mural "Preserve Our Heritage" in 1977.

Charlotte "Carlotta" Hernandez, an artist and singer, designed the Chicano Park logo, which today adorns a pillar with the phrase "La Tierra Mia" ("My Land").

A new museum

The Chicano Park Museum and Cultural Center opened in the fall of 2022, creating a space to educate visitors about Chicano, Latino and Indigenous culture and history. The museum, adjacent to the park, has a main exhibit called "PILLARS: Stories of Resilience and Self-Determination," which highlights the groups that contributed to Chicano Park and the region.

There is also a rotating gallery to showcase local artists' work.

The museum has partnered with the Logan Heights Archival Documentation Project, led by Pulido, who has been instrumental in documenting the area's history with help from students.

The project's detailed research on key places and moments in Logan Heights history, including the venerable restaurant El Carrito and the original Logan Heights library, can be found on the museum website.

The museum is open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday through Sunday.

Visiting the park

Plan to spend at least an hour walking around the 7.4-acre park and admiring the murals, or bring a lunch to eat on the grass or at one of the many tables.

Before visiting, it's helpful to know about the murals and their significance, so try to stop by the museum first. Other information can be found in the 2015 Chicano Park Murals Documentation Project. The Chicano Park Steering Committee also leads walking tours for visitors.

Though a large portion of the park and its murals resides between Logan and National avenues, visitors will find additional murals at the basketball courts on Logan Avenue, along with a community herb garden. Make time to walk around the surrounding neighborhoods, which feature shops, restaurants, galleries and more murals on gates and the sides of buildings.

The park's future

Artists are still painting murals today. Mario Chacon, an artist and community advocate, is working on a mural on the southwestern side of the park. But Pulido notes that as less space becomes available, there's more competition for artists to claim a place to paint. From 2016 to 2022, 17 murals were added to the park. Several murals, painted decades ago, have also been restored.

Cindy Rocha, Hector Villegas, Patricia Cruz and Cesar Castañeda are among the newer muralists in the park. To paint there, a muralist must first bring a design to the Chicano Park Steering Committee for approval and ensure funding to complete the work.

Cruz, who is also a member of the steering committee, said the younger generation are aware they are standing on the shoulders of the artists who painted before them in a more "revolutionary" era.

But the new generation also has issues to contend with in Barrio Logan, Pulido said, citing gentrification and poor air quality. Barrio Logan has some of the worst air in California, according to regulators, and concerns over how the city responds to pollution in the neighborhood remains a top issue.

"It's more than murals and pillars," Pulido said. "What will Chicano Park look like 20 years from now? Will we still have this energy?"

Fox writes for the San Diego Union-Tribune.

Animatronic Disneyland dragon erupts in flames

[**Fantasmic,** from B1]
packed the area to watch the spectacular, which normally features digital flames, colored fountains and pyrotechnics.

Images and videos shared on social media showed actual flames shooting up over the park.

Witnesses told The Times that spectators were dumbfounded.

The signature show takes place twice nightly, with the second performance beginning at 10:30 in front of the island in the Rivers of America. The audience watches from the banks around New Orleans Square and Frontierland.

The show was coming to its climax, in which Mickey Mouse fights a fire-breathing dragon named Maleficent. Things went awry when the fire breath engulfed the dragon's head, then spread to the rest of the body, Laux said.

"At one point there was a fireball," he said. "There was a bit of debris that fell from the prop."

"It was shocking," he added. "The crowd was in a standstill. People are packed in like sardines."

"It happened out of nowhere," said Melissa Giles, 30, who had traveled from Alberta, Canada, to spend four days at the theme park. "We thought it was part of the show. Within seconds it went up in flames."

Shortly after the fire, park employees turned on a water feature that was part of the show. The crowd erupted in cheers, Laux said.

Fantasmic made its debut at Disneyland in 1992 and got a makeover in 2017.

Lottery results

Tonight's Powerball Jackpot:
$28 million
Sales close at 7 p.m.

For Saturday, April 22, 2023

SuperLotto Plus
Mega number is **Bold**

12-22-41-42-43—**Mega 18**
Jackpot: $52 million

Winners per category:

	No. of winners	Amount of prize(s)
5 + Mega	0	—
5	2	$24,610
4 + Mega	15	$1,640
4	397	$103
3 + Mega	617	$59
3	17,244	$10
2 + Mega	8,624	$11
1 + Mega	43,524	$2
Mega only	67,699	$1

Powerball
Powerball number is **bold**

17-36-47-63-68—**Powerball 25**
Jackpot: $20 million

California winners per category:

	No. of winners	Amount of prize(s)
5 + P-ball	0	—
5	0	—
4 + P-ball	1	$23,498
4	24	$489
3 + P-ball	58	$210
3	1,770	$7
2 + P-ball	1,379	$9
1 + P-ball	10,705	$5
P-ball only	26,847	$4

Winning jackpot ticket(s) sold in other states: None

For Sunday, April 23, 2023

Fantasy Five: 7-11-13-14-38

Daily Four: 0-5-7-7

Daily Three (midday): 9-4-0

Daily Three (evening): 6-1-1

Daily Derby:
(4) Big Ben
(10) Solid Gold
(7) Eureka
Race time: 1:40.62

Results on the internet:
www.latimes.com/lottery
General information:
(800) 568-8379
(Results not available at this number)

The power of flower

After months of heavy rains, beachgoers explore a cave and tidepools on a sunny, warm day last week in Laguna Beach. At right, blooming wildflowers help create a scenic landscape for a beachgoer.

Photographs by ALLEN J. SCHABEN Los Angeles Times

Group disrupts story hour led by drag queen

Protesters take issue with library event in Sherman Oaks: 'This is nightclub material.'

BY GABRIEL SAN ROMÁN

A handful of protesters walked into the Sherman Oaks Martin Pollard Branch Library on Saturday afternoon and disrupted a drag queen reading.

Parents, teens and children gathered around as Pickle, a Los Angeles organizer of Drag Queen Story Hour, read from a book while dressed in drag.

The event was billed as an opportunity to "celebrate people who defy rigid gender restrictions and imagine a world where everyone can be their authentic selves," according to a Los Angeles Public Library website post promoting it.

About 10 minutes into the reading, three protesters suddenly stood up from their seats.

"This is an abomination," one man said in a video reviewed by The Times. "This is nightclub material."

A woman wearing a red "Make Men Lions Again" hat touched off heated exchanges by claiming the event was nothing short of "perversion" and "child abuse."

"They were videotaping us and so several of us were videotaping them," said an attendee, who wished to remain anonymous for fear of reprisal. "They kept on yelling and screaming."

A security guard told the protesters to leave the library to cheers of "bye" from the supportive crowd, but they refused to do so.

Police were called and asked about a possible trespassing arrest if the protesters did not leave, said Officer Norma Eisenman, a Los Angeles Police Department spokesperson. Two of the protesters had already left by the time police arrived.

No arrests were made.

The event concluded without further incident. Library staff asked those in attendance to exit out a back door.

Los Angeles City Councilmember Nithya Raman, who represents the area, responded to the incident by releasing a statement Saturday night in which she alleged that protesters tried to prevent people from entering the library and engaged in hate speech during the event.

"Our office strongly condemns this action and the ongoing nationwide campaign to make children and adults feel afraid and unwelcome for being who they are," Raman said in the statement. "We must continue to fight for the safety of the full spectrum of identities, gender and expressions in Los Angeles and beyond."

Protesters uploaded footage of their disruption to a right-wing Instagram account where they also denied trying to block people from entering the library.

During a drag queen reading at the West Hollywood Library this month, a counterprotester punched a man who attempted to film the event with his phone from outside before briefly entering the premises.

2 wounded in shooting in front of store

BY GABRIEL SAN ROMÁN

A man and a woman were shot and wounded early Sunday in front of a convenience store in Hollywood, Los Angeles police said.

The shooting occurred about 1 a.m. in front of a 7-Eleven at Hollywood Boulevard and Wilcox Avenue, police said.

Officers were patrolling the area when they heard gunshots, authorities said.

They found a 43-year-old man outside the store with gunshot wounds to his head and back, police said. They also found a 28-year-old woman inside the store with a gunshot wound to her leg.

Both victims, who were not identified, were taken to a hospital and were expected to survive.

One of the victims told police that six people got out of a car in front of the store, with one firing a weapon. After the shooting, the assailants got back into the car and sped off.

No description of the shooter, the other people or the car was immediately available. It was unknown if the shooting was gang-related or what the motive was.

The shooting came less than a day after gunfire erupted at a Hollywood nightclub early Saturday that left one man hospitalized in stable condition.

Earlier this month, a 37-year-old man was shot in the head near the TCL Chinese Theatre on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. In January, another shooting near the landmark left one man dead and two others injured.

SeaWorld euthanizes ailing sea lion Freeway

Known for wandering around San Diego, he had a progressive disease, the park says.

BY LYNDSAY WINKLEY

SAN DIEGO — Freeway, the land-loving sea lion with a penchant for wandering far from his ocean home, has been euthanized, SeaWorld San Diego said Friday.

The sea lion earned notoriety in January 2022 after making a brazen attempt to cross State Route 94, a busy freeway a couple of miles from shore.

The SeaWorld team that got him to safety said it wasn't the first time the animal required rescue from odd places. From the San Diego International Airport to a storm drain in Logan Heights, Freeway seemed to have an inexplicable need to venture inland.

No longer.

"Before he was rescued last year, he had contracted a progressive disease that our animal care experts diagnosed," SeaWorld said Friday on Facebook. "Despite extensive treatment, the disease caused his health to deteriorate over time."

NELVIN C. CEPEDA San Diego Union-Tribune

FREEWAY was rehabbed at SeaWorld in 2022 after he tried to cross busy State Route 94. It wasn't the first time the animal required rescue from odd places.

The team made the decision to humanely euthanize him, SeaWorld said.

Freeway was first rescued in November 2021 when he was found walking on Harbor Island Drive. A rescue crew rehabbed him at SeaWorld for a week, fitted his left flipper with an orange tag and dropped him back into the sea.

His freeway stunt prompted rescue No. 2. Several months later, he was saved again, this time after someone spotted him wandering up a storm drain in Logan Heights, about half a mile from where the drain hits San Diego Harbor.

Before the string of rescues, Freeway was spotted ashore at Point Loma, Encinitas and Cardiff. But those spots are near the water.

SeaWorld never determined why the sea lion kept wandering so far from the ocean.

When animals wander out of their habitat, it's usually for food, SeaWorld officials said last year. But Freeway's weight was healthy, at about 190 pounds, and his rescue crew didn't think he struggled to eat in the ocean. His body condition was also satisfactory, with no bumps or bruises.

It was also unclear why Freeway didn't stay with a group of sea lions, as is typical of the animals, officials said last year. At SeaWorld, he was living with three others and had been social with them.

On Facebook, SeaWorld thanked the community for supporting Freeway's journey.

"His adventurous spirit won the hearts of all San Diegans and he will be remembered for that and so much more," SeaWorld said.

Winkley writes for the San Diego Union-Tribune.

3-year-old who died in pool accident with twin ID'd

Kai Bernabe's parents found him and his brother unresponsive at Porter Ranch home.

BY RACHEL URANGA

A 3-year-old boy who died after he and his twin brother were found unresponsive Friday morning in the backyard pool of a Porter Ranch home has been identified.

Kai Bernabe died at the hospital, three months short of his fourth birthday, the Los Angeles County medical examiner-coroner's office confirmed.

The boys were originally reported to be 4 years old.

The boys' parents found them in the pool, pulled the children from the water and performed CPR with the guidance of Los Angeles Fire Department dispatchers on the phone, fire officials said.

Fire and emergency medical personnel arrived at the home along a cul-de-sac on Des Moines Avenue just after 10:30 a.m., according to the Fire Department.

"Paramedics worked feverishly to provide every chance possible for these children," LAFD Capt. Eric Scott told reporters Friday.

The children were transported to a regional pediatric trauma center.

"Tragically," Scott said, "one of those boys was pronounced dead at the hospital."

Authorities had no update on the second child's condition as of Saturday evening.

Television footage of the Porter Ranch property shows a stately ranch home that looks out onto a large pool and patio area.

"There's nothing to indicate anything beyond a tragic accident here," Capt. Kelly Muniz of the Los Angeles Police Department told reporters Friday.

Members of the mayor's Crisis Response Team were sent to the home to provide support to family and neighbors.

Granada Hills high school coach arrested

Gabriel Chavez, 36, is charged with sexual misconduct involving a minor.

BY MELISSA HEALY

A 36-year-old man who coached basketball at a Granada Hills high school and volunteered for several youth programs across the Los Angeles area has been charged with sexual misconduct involving a minor.

Gabriel Chavez of Chatsworth was arrested Wednesday on multiple counts of lewd acts with a minor and is being held on $310,000 bail, according to the Los Angeles Police Department.

The LAPD is asking others who may have been sexually assaulted by Chavez to come forward.

Police said Chavez was "engaged in an inappropriate relationship with a minor" while he was employed as a coach at Granada Hills Charter High School. Chavez's employment there was terminated in January. The school's administration is cooperating in the investigation.

On Saturday, detectives from the LAPD's Devonshire division released a photograph of Chavez in hopes of hearing from potential additional victims or people who may have witnessed Chavez engaging in inappropriate behavior.

Those with information are asked to call (818) 832-0609 or (877) LAPD-24-7. Tipsters who wish to remain anonymous can call L.A. Regional Crime Stoppers at (800) 222-TIPS or visit lacrimestoppers.org.

‘Friends’ star says he’ll remove insult from memoir

Matthew Perry calls Keanu Reeves potshot in his addiction tell-all ‘mean’ and ‘stupid.’

By Lorraine Berry

Matthew Perry not only regrets insulting Keanu Reeves in his new book — he’s pulling Reeves’ name out of future editions of “Friends, Lovers, and the Big Terrible Thing,” Perry’s memoir of his long struggle with substance abuse and addiction.

Perry shared news of the revision at the Los Angeles Times Festival of Books, addressing a capacity crowd at USC’s Bovard Auditorium on Saturday afternoon during a panel moderated by Matt Brennan, The Times’ deputy editor for entertainment and arts.

“I said a stupid thing. It was a mean thing to do,” Perry said, referring to his lament in the book that former co-stars River Phoenix and Chris Farley had died while Reeves “walks among us.”

“I pulled his name because I live on the same street,” Perry said. “I’ve apologized publicly to him. Any future versions of the book will not have his name in it.”

He said he hadn’t apologized in person to Reeves, but added: “If I run into the guy, I’ll apologize. It was just stupid.”

During a candid conversation with Brennan, Perry told stories that made the audience laugh, but he didn’t shrink from relating a harrowing experience with drugs that came very close to killing him. He also offered a reassessment of the show that made him famous.

Although Perry is proud that a new generation of fans has come to appreciate “Friends” almost 20 years after the series ended, he accepts criticism that it lacked diversity.

“It was a different time,” he said. “Nobody talked about diversity.” At the same time, he added, “we were all stupid.” Now, he said, “Diversity is a huge issue. It’s the right thing to do.”

And he told the story of how he came to write a memoir that is uncommonly unflinching by celebrity standards.

“I was on a road trip from Florida to Los Angeles, sitting in the back of a car, and I started writing,” Perry said. “After three days, I thought, ‘I’m done, I’m an author!’ ” But his manager set him straight: 100 pages of notes was “not a book.”

Writing the memoir helped Perry in his recovery from addiction, he said, easing feelings of angst, anxiety and depression: “It came pouring out of me — the painful stuff, hospitals, rehabs, all of this stuff — it poured out of me. It went really quickly.”

The most painful part, he revealed, was reading what he had written. “What a horrible life this guy has had,” he remembered thinking.

That life began as the product of an unhappy marriage. His parents separated when he was 1, and he said one of his earliest memories was of flying from his mother’s home in Montreal to his father’s in Los Angeles. He was 5 and flew unaccompanied.

“When I saw the lights of Los Angeles, I felt better after feeling so scared,” he said. “When I went shopping for a house, I had to have a view. I look out at the view and I feel less scared.”

He noted that the family’s doctor had prescribed him phenobarbital for colic, but quickly added, “It’s hard to blame my parents. But when I was detoxing, I thought, why would you give barbiturates to a kid who is crying? But everybody trusted doctors then.”

The Reeves insults notwithstanding, Perry said he did his “best to not go after anybody in the book. That wasn’t the point.”

“I’ve been in therapy since I was 18 years old,” he explained. “I wanted to make sure that this wasn’t the kind of book where I blame people for the things they did wrong. You have to give them credit for the things they did right.”

He described fame as his first drug.

“Nobody wanted to be famous more than me,” Perry said. “I was convinced it was the answer. I was 25, it was the second year of ‘Friends,’ and eight months into it, I realized the American dream is not making me happy, not filling the holes in my life. I couldn’t get enough attention. ... Fame does not do what you think it’s going to do. It was all a trick.”

The hole in his life remained even after he got famous.

“What’s the answer to that? Drink. Take drugs. Fill that hole with something else,” he said. Getting sober involved a process of learning, as a therapist told him, “that ‘reality is an acquired taste.’ ”

“It’s human to want to feel better all the time. We just want to feel better,” he stressed. “That’s what every addict and alcoholic wants. But that desire kills many. You’re having trouble with the way the world is.”

Perry added that when you’ve gone through so much, you have to believe it means something: “The amount of times I escaped death, there has to be a reason. I don’t know what that is.”

His memoir is part of how he’s trying to answer that question. In sharing his story, he’s hopeful that it will speak to others in a similar place in their lives, and help them.

Though the legacy of “Friends” is something Perry is proud of, he said it’s not the first thing he wants to be remembered for.

Pressed to name how he’d like to be remembered, he said: “As a guy who lived life, loved well, lived well and helped people. That running into me was a good thing, and not something bad.”

Berry is a special correspondent.

Big names, big dreams at L.A. Times Festival of Books

[**Books,** from B1]
pseudonym, a political thriller, two nonfiction books and, more recently, children’s books.

It was her latest picture book, “Stacey’s Remarkable Books,” that brought Abrams to the second day of the annual fair on the USC campus. But hers was hardly the only love story with the written word to dominate the weekend.

Over the course of two days, tens of thousands of people meandered the leafy university campus, attending panels and purchasing and browsing countless books.

The festival bills itself as the biggest literary event in the country.

As Abrams bantered with Times columnist Erika D. Smith from the main stage, fans spilled out far beyond the audience tent, filling grassy areas on either side and lining the edge of a nearby fountain. They clapped and squinted in the sun, snapping photos on iPhones and whispering commentary to friends.

Rep. Katie Porter (D-Irvine), a Senate candidate and author of the memoir “I Swear: Politics Is Messier Than My Minivan,” received a similarly enthralled reception Sunday morning, when Times political correspondent Melanie Mason interviewed her in front of several hundred people in a basement auditorium.

“She’s one of the most entertaining and lively members of Congress,” said Sidney Stern, a high school senior from Los Angeles.

“I’m actually a romance reader, so I came here for that,” Stern added, clutching a paperback she’d been reading while waiting for Porter to sign her T-shirt. “But me and my mom are really big fans of Katie.”

Held the same weekend as another arts festival some 130 miles east in the Coachella Valley, the Los Angeles Times Festival of Books draws a different type of star power.

In addition to Abrams and Porter, big names in attendance included culture critic Roxane Gay; “Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow” author Gabrielle Zevin; crime writing legends James Ellroy, Michael Connelly and Walter Mosley; beloved children’s author Lois Lowry; and acclaimed novelists Ottessa Moshfegh and Rachel Kushner.

(And the *other* festival doesn’t have a monopoly on musical talent: Legends such as Susanna Hoffs and Joan Baez were among the many lyrical talents at the book fest.)

When California’s new poet laureate, Lee Herrick, recited “My California,” his best-known work, from the poetry stage, the stanzas had a hypnotic effect on the throngs. A boisterous group of college-age men walking past the tent stopped suddenly and stared, transfixed as Herrick delivered his melodious vision of the state, rich with imagery of the Central Valley.

Jason Armond Los Angeles Times

STACEY ABRAMS, left, chats with Times columnist Erika D. Smith on Sunday at the L.A. Times Festival of Books. The politico has a side career as an author.

“What a nice little mental sorbet,” a woman remarked to her daughter of Herrick’s poems, as the pair exited the realm of poetry and made their way into the maze of white booths.

There were plenty of well-known publishers and independent bookstores represented. But many booths spoke to an individual writer’s dream, chased hard, then offered to the masses — typically with a small bowl of candy or free stickers to draw in potential readers.

By day, Marina Flores works as a marketing manager for a luxury furniture company. But this weekend, she was able to fully embrace her identity as a poet, manning a booth where she sold roughly 70 copies of her first collection, “A Journal Entry.”

Many potential customers were drawn in by the rainbow pride flags adorning either side of Flores’ booth — a fitting siren call for a personal work that touches on themes of queer identity. The booth was not cheap, she said, but a worthy investment as she builds her brand and name as a poet.

On the other side of the festival, Élan Marché assured a potential reader that the self-published fantasy series she co-authored with her husband, Christopher Warman, is “less witches and wizards and more kind of a rune-based magical system.”

Like Flores, Marché and Warman both have day jobs (corporate real estate administration and cable network employee, respectively). But their festival booth — sparsely decorated with laminated copies of the world map from their series — has allowed them to connect with countless readers, build relationships and sell dozens of books.

“We just kind of decided we wanted to get our face out there and interface with some of our actual readers directly,” Marché said.

The festive atmosphere was interrupted Sunday evening when a melee broke out at the Español stage, where controversial archaeologist Richard Hansen — who has spent decades excavating a vast Mayan complex in Guatemala — was being interviewed by L.A. Times En Español editorial director Alejandro Maciel, whose Column One about Hansen’s research was published this year in The Times.

About 15 masked protesters rushed the small stage, shouting, “This is stolen land” and “F— imperialism.”

A tussle broke out between the demonstrators and event crew members who were trying to clear the stage, and one person was arrested for battery, according to the Los Angeles Police Department.

The Times’ Reed Johnson and Laura Newberry contributed to this report.

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LEGAL NOTICES 1300

Legal Notices

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI) LIFEGUARD VEHICLE SPONSORSHIP ALTERNATIVE FUEL SOLUTIONS

The Los Angeles County Fire Department (Fire Department) is releasing a Request for information (RFI) to obtain information from firms interested in entering into a Vehicle Sponsorship Agreement with the Fire Department.

To obtain the RFI documents, please contact Carlos Santiago by email at Carlos.Santiago@fire.lacounty.gov.

The submission deadline is May 15, 2023, by 5:00 p.m. (PST) to: Carlos.Santiago@fire.lacounty.gov

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JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

YOMMM

VARNE

NNAAAB

DELHNA

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

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Print your answer here: _____ _____

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday’s Jumbles: SHIRT MACAW BICKER GAZEBO
Answer: Audiences in Las Vegas attend Mac King’s show to watch him — WORK HIS MAGIC

Melee breaks out at archaeologist’s talk

[**Hansen,** from B1]
was in custody on suspicion of battery.

In an interview Sunday evening, Hansen said that he had not been touched during the disruption. He said his laptop was seized by one of the demonstrators but was later recovered.

“I’ve lectured all over the world and this has never happened before,” said Hansen, who formerly taught at UCLA.

The work that Hansen has been doing has taken place in an area riven with drug trafficking, human trafficking and illegal deforestation.

Critics have accused Hansen of wanting to develop the area to increase archaeological tourism in a way that would harm the local population, many of whom are Indigenous.

Hansen, whose proposals have won support from a number of Maya leaders, has said that his plans are environmentally sustainable, would provide jobs for Indigenous communities and would mitigate the influence of what he called the “mafias” operating in the region.

“We totally believe in the work of Dr. Hansen,” said Edgar Chaj, a Los Angeles resident and vice president of the group Maya Vision, which met with Hansen on Saturday. “I am very sad for what has happened.”

Critics, including Sunday’s protesters, also have berated Hansen for accepting awards from Guatemalan administrations and business-affiliated groups.

Referring to Sunday’s demonstrators, Hansen said, “I think they were profoundly influenced by lies and distortions.”

Maciel said that neither he nor his young daughter, who had accompanied him, had been injured in the outburst.

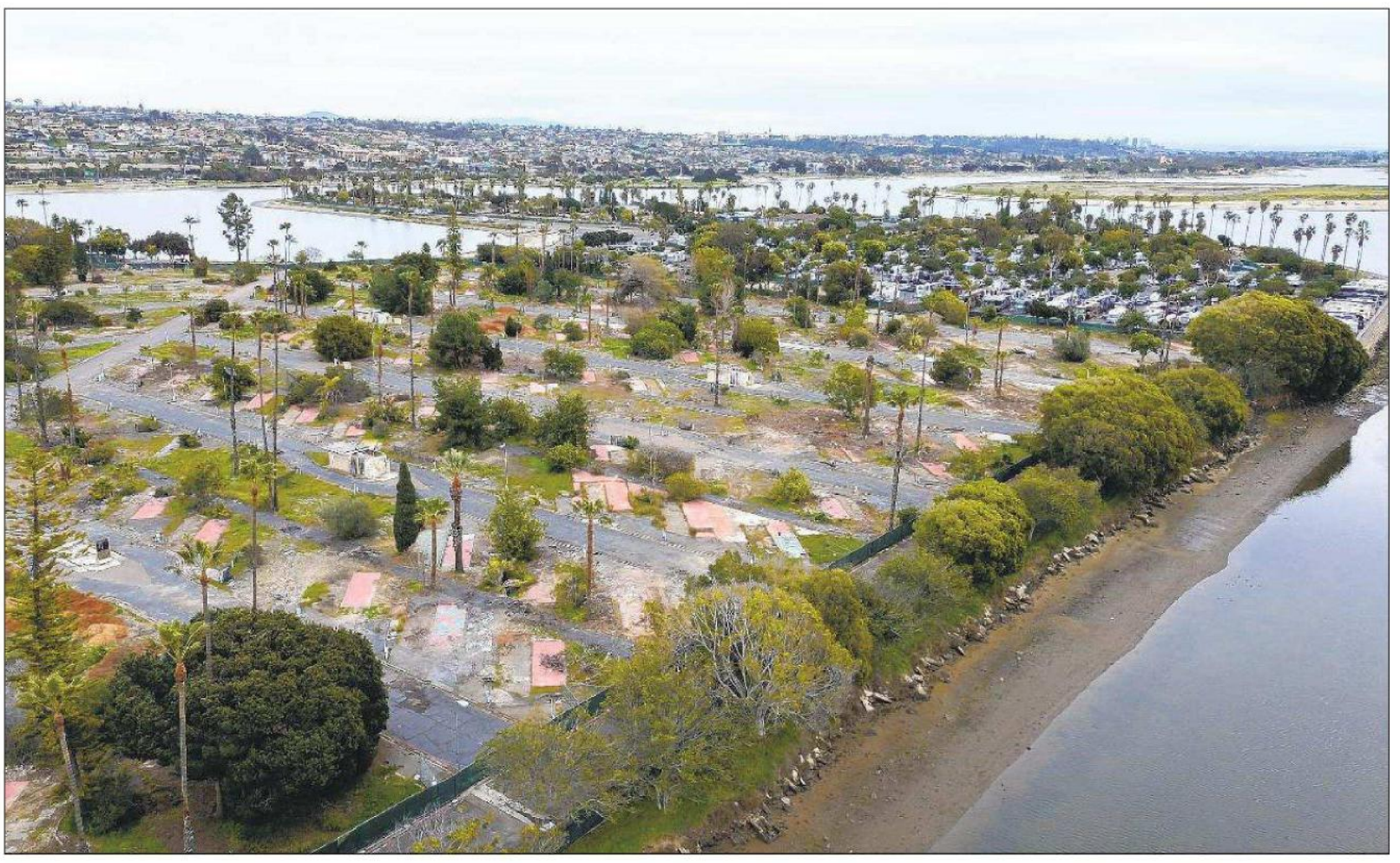
“We all have the right to express our opinion and demonstrate, but what is not right or fair is the use of violence,” said Veronica Alvarado, organizer of Festival of Books programming that seeks to promote reading in Spanish within the Southern California community.

L.A. Times en Español audience engagement editor Claudia Núñez contributed to this report.

San Diego plan for new marshland draws backlash

Critics bemoan what would be a loss of acreage for cherished recreational facilities.

By David Garrick



Sandy Huffaker For the San Diego Union-Tribune

THE CLOSURE of a mobile home park freed up land in Mission Bay. San Diego plans to convert some of it to climate-friendly marshland.

SAN DIEGO — A plan to transform much of San Diego's recreation-rich northeast Mission Bay into marshland is facing backlash from tennis players, golfers, boating clubs, campers and supporters of youth sports.

The critics say the city's plan to replace some recreational areas with hundreds of acres of climate-friendly marshland threatens institutions that have been part of San Diego's civic fiber for more than 50 years. Those include Campland by the Bay, the Mission Bay Golf Course, the Pacific Beach Tennis Club, Bob McEvoy Youth Fields and the Mission Bay Boat & Ski Club.

Advocates for the plan say marshland can boost water quality, pull carbon out of the air and fight sea-level rise and its impacts.

The outpouring of opposition, which has included critics flooding two public meetings and submitting more than 1,000 written comments, comes during the final stretch of a seven-year process to determine the fate of the area.

That process was sparked by the closure of the De Anza Cove mobile home park, which freed up 75 acres of land, creating the potential for city officials to re-envision the northeast corner of Mission Bay.

City officials last month unveiled Mayor Todd Gloria's preferred plan for the 505-acre area, which would triple marshland and dune areas from 82 to 257 acres, reducing the area devoted to other purposes.

Available space for active recreation, such as tennis, golf and baseball, would shrink from 66 to 60 acres. Land used for camping would drop from 62 to 48 acres, and areas for passive recreation, such as picnics, would drop from 89 to 31 acres.

Those reductions are frustrating to many who had expected the elimination of the mobile home park to open new opportunities for recreation. They say it's a bad time to consider shrinking those opportunities in the area, which is just west of a new trolley line that city officials have targeted for high-rise residential development that could bring thousands of new residents.

Critics also note that city officials have declined to say which recreational activities will be forced out of the area.

City officials say they aren't being intentionally vague but envision such decisions as part of a two-step process. The City Council is scheduled this fall to approve a concept plan designating which areas will be devoted to marshland, camping and recreation. In coming years, the council will specify which activities will occupy the recreation areas and precisely where they'll be.

To appease recreation groups demanding answers more quickly, city planner Scott Sandel recently unveiled a "test fit" map he created to show that all existing activities could survive in northeast Mission Bay except the boat and ski club.

His map shrinks the golf course from 47 to 43 acres, reducing it from a par-58 to a par-54 and making the driving range smaller. In exchange, the number of sports fields could grow from four to five, and the number of tennis courts could jump from eight to 10.

"The area is envisioned to remain a recreational hotspot, offering a variety of active sports and recreation facilities," Sandel wrote in a city staff report. "Examples could include golf facilities, tennis courts and ball fields."

Still, the San Diego Parks and Recreation Board is concerned enough about the project that on Thursday it approved a special subcommittee to explore solutions and prospects for delaying the process.

"This is a 50-year plan, and it doesn't seem to be completely worked out to everyone's satisfaction," Chair Marcella Bothwell said. "I don't feel it's ready for prime time yet."

Board member Dennis Otsuji said he prefers a previous plan for the area, unveiled in 2018, that he thought had a better balance between marshland and recreation. That proposal included 120 acres of wetlands combined with more acres for camping and recreation.

Board member Shaina Gross said one issue that needs to be settled is whether the Mission Bay Boat & Ski Club will be allowed to relocate to the bay's south shore.

"It feels like we're rushing," she said. "There's clearly a lot of input, and I think we could get to a place that's more of a middle ground."

The special subcommittee will include three members from the Parks and Recreation Board and three from the Mission Bay Park Committee, which expressed similar concerns during an April 4 meeting at which 400 people spoke against the city's plan.

At Thursday's Parks and Recreation Board meeting, dozens of residents complained.

"I can't emphasize strongly enough the immense value and crucial role of the Bob McEvoy Youth Fields," said Susan Crowers. "Participation in youth sports provides immediate and long-term physical and mental benefits for youth, their families and the community. The youth of Pacific Beach, Clairemont and La Jolla all share these fields year-round for baseball, softball, T-ball and soccer."

Gary Kent, who uses the area's tennis courts, said he's worried about maintaining consistency.

"We want to make sure there's no 'oops' later," he said. "We also want the club to stay open. We don't want it to be knocked down and rebuilt somewhere else a few years later."

Supporters of the Boat & Ski Club — which has low storage fees for boats and hosts many free events, including kayak clinics — stressed its value to young people and low-income residents.

Many of those criticizing the city's plan wore yellow shirts that said "Campland Forever." They said the 54-year-old campground, which has a pool and outdoor concert space, is a cherished spot for families.

"The conversation that's taking place is premature," said Ken Wagner, who has visited Campland 11 years in a row. "It just doesn't make sense to reduce it. Let Campland do what they do best — make campers happy and generate revenue for the city."

Campland generates more than $5 million a year for the city in lease revenue. City officials haven't provided updated revenue estimates for the other recreation activities in northeast Mission Bay.

Jacob Gelfand, whose family runs Campland, said it would make more sense to restore wetlands in other parts of the city.

Aware of the backlash, environmental groups that persuaded the city to prioritize marshland are lobbying officials to stick with the plan or add even more marshland.

They held a news conference Wednesday stressing that the plan would create only 75% of the marshland needed, contending that sea-level rise will put much of the park and the new marshland underwater by 2100.

The city's climate action plan calls for creating 700 acres of marshland by 2035. Officials say the northeast corner of Mission Bay is a key part of that commitment.

A hearing date before the city's Planning Commission is tentatively planned for Aug. 31, with a City Council hearing in the fall.

Whatever plan the council chooses will need to be submitted to the California Coastal Commission for approval.

Garrick writes for the San Diego Union-Tribune.

DWP to pay $38 million to settle suit

[**Settlement,** from B1]

near the remaining 753 high-priority poles. Those notices advised residents and businesses that repairs will be performed over the next three weeks.

"Until repairs are made, we urge you to use caution in the vicinity of the pole," said the DWP door hanger, which is being left at about 3,200 homes and businesses.

The door hanger also reminded customers to never touch a downed or dangling wire and to call 911 if they see one. The DWP plans to finish delivering those notices by the end of Monday.

The utility's five-member oversight board signed off on the $38-million payout last month. The board is set to meet Tuesday to receive an update on the power pole repair and inspection program.

A lawyer for the Tejada family did not respond to inquiries from The Times. Mayor Karen Bass, who has the power to appoint and remove DWP board members, said Sunday that what happened to the Tejada family was "absolutely devastating."

"I've directed LADWP to quickly and thoroughly implement reforms to minimize the chance an incident like this ever happens again," she said in a statement. "Angelenos should feel safe in their own backyards."

To satisfy the terms of the settlement, the DWP will pay $20 million. Its insurance carrier will provide the remaining $18 million.

The DWP is responsible for the inspection and maintenance of more than 301,000 power poles and nearly 7,300 miles of overhead distribution lines. Poles and wires that are found to pose a public safety threat are supposed to be fixed within 24 hours, according to the department's own standards.

In 2011, the state's Public Utilities Commission audited the DWP's operations and concluded that the utility did not inspect its overhead wires frequently enough to ensure they are in good condition.

Three years later, the Los Angeles Daily News reported that the utility had fallen behind in replacing aging poles and associated equipment. That report also found that more than one-fourth of the DWP's poles — about 87,000 — had exceeded their 60-year lifespan.

At the time, then-Councilmember Felipe Fuentes, who headed the committee that oversees the DWP, voiced his own concerns over the pace of repairs. It "feels like we're not making any ground on a program that already is sort of behind schedule," he said.

Adams said the discussion in 2014 focused heavily on the age and lifespan of DWP power poles, as opposed to the inspection system needed to determine which ones need repairs. The DWP overhauled its inspection program in 2021 — the year the Panorama City incident occurred — bringing in a contractor to supplement the utility's own workers, he said.

Tejada and his daughter were killed early on Jan. 25, 2021, after a rainstorm. That night, a pin on the power pole was dislodged, causing a power line to become loose and then fall to the ground, according to a DWP spokesperson.

> 'This is a tragedy ... that, at least in theory, we should have been able to foresee the possibility of this happening.'
>
> — Marty Adams, DWP general manager

When the wire fell, it caused a "violent noise," the DWP official said. Shortly before 3 a.m., Janina Tejada went into the backyard to find out what happened and came into contact with the wire.

Her father ran out and tried to help her, the DWP official said. Both were electrocuted.

Family members of the Tejadas sued a few months later, saying the DWP was responsible for those deaths. In their lawsuit, they said the utility had been negligent in its maintenance of its power poles and high-voltage electrical lines.

The lawsuit was filed by Julleth Tejada, wife of Ferdinand Tejada, who saw and heard her husband and daughter as they were electrocuted.

The other plaintiff is Estrelita Madrigal, grandmother of Janina Tejada.

Madrigal "heard the explosion, smelled the smoke and fire, heard the screams and the yelling and was aware that her granddaughter was being electrocuted," the lawsuit states.

The DWP's Adams acknowledged that the power pole did not receive its proper inspection. Although the utility performed a once-a-year inspection at that location — the kind done from the street — it did not receive a more detailed, up-close inspection, which is required by the state every five years, he said.

Although the DWP has been spending $1 billion a year on maintenance and repairs to its infrastructure, Adams said, that money was not going toward the work needed at many of its most seriously damaged poles.

On Friday, DWP officials briefed the aides of council members about the notices that are being hung on the doors of residents who live near power poles that the utility has deemed a public safety risk.

The agency also tweeted messages in English and Spanish advising Angelenos not to touch downed power lines.

Councilmember Katy Yaroslavsky, who heads the council committee that oversees the DWP, said she intends to introduce a motion Tuesday calling for leaders of the utility to explain the "immediate risks" posed by its power poles and discuss their next steps.

"It is outrageous that our electric poles have been allowed to fall into such a state of disrepair that hundreds across the city remain in life threatening condition," she said in a statement.

Obituaries

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Michele D. Ellis
Mount Sinai Mem Parks
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Los Angeles Times

Robert Francis Lass

July 6, 1931 - March 31, 2023

Robert Francis Lass, lovingly known as, "Big Bob", died peacefully on March 31, 2023 from natural causes, surrounded by his family and caregiver Ian. Big Bob was a seventh generation Californian who graduated from Loyola High School (1949) and attended Loyola University. After serving his country in the Korean War, Big Bob returned to Los Angeles and started a long career in the film industry as a negative editor. Bob was a generous parishioner of St. Brendan's. He received a Papal Honor in 2016. For years, Bob volunteered with Meals on Wheels. As a result of all his volunteer efforts in the Los Angeles community, he accepted an invitation to join the Knights of Malta. He truly was a man who lived for others all his life. He married his beloved Teddy in 1953, and they were together for 69 years. They raised 7 children, grandparents to 14 and 5 great-grandchildren. A lifelong sports fan devoted to his Lakers, Dodgers and Trojans, we will always remember him wearing his team jackets and shirts with Teddy by his side. His memory will remind us to get out on the dance floor, ride a perfect wave and linger at a beautiful sunset. Bob's infectious laughter, the twinkle in his eyes and his bear hugs will be missed and forever cherished. A memorial mass will take place on Saturday, May 20, 2:00 P.M. at St. Brendan's Church. Please wear your favorite Hawaiian shirt at Big Bob's request. Reception to follow at Wilshire Country Club. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Homeboy Industries.

THE WEATHER

Today in Southern California

Cooler weather to continue: A weak disturbance passing by well to the northeast today will help strengthen onshore flow, leading to a deeper and more widespread marine layer. Low clouds and fog can even spread into some of the inner valleys before clearing up during the afternoon. High pressure is then set to build back in Tuesday, which will be the start of a warm stretch for many locations.

5-day forecasts

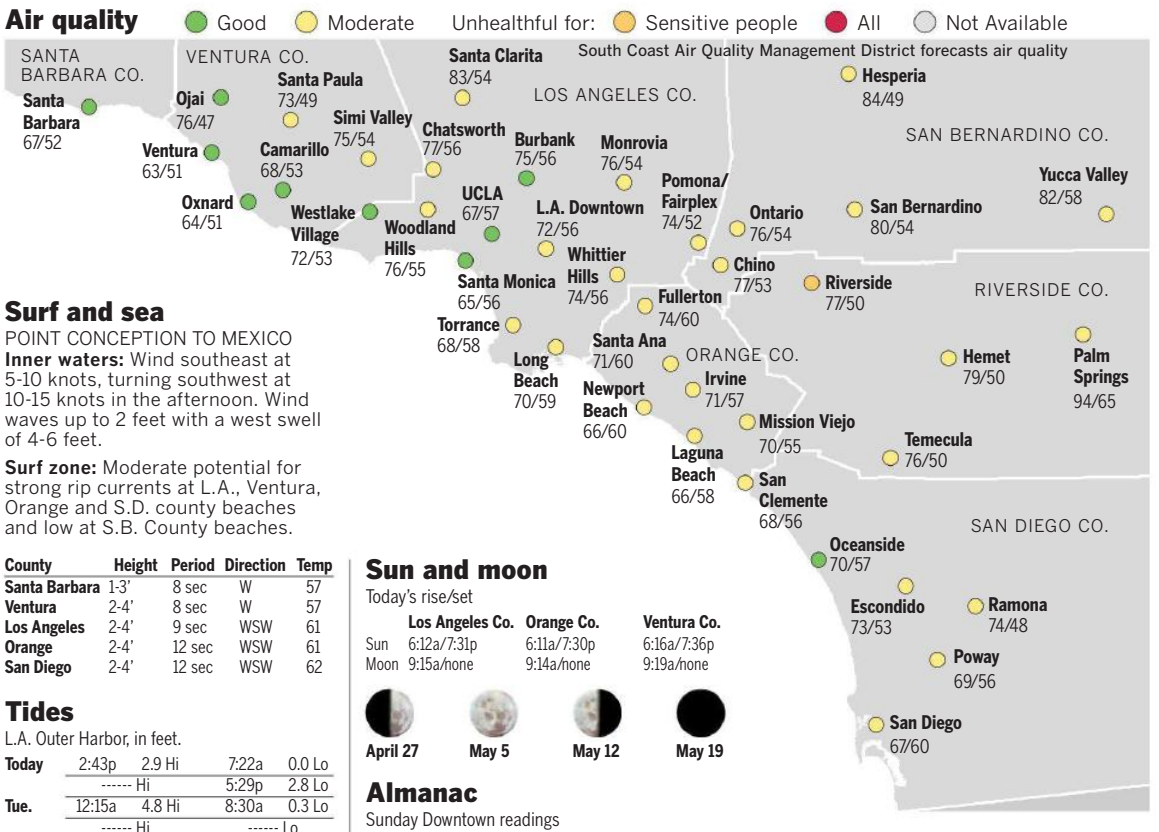
High/low temperatures are average forecasts for entire zone.

	L.A. Basin		Valleys		Beaches		Mountains		Deserts	
Today	72|56		78|56		65|56		65|36		94|65	
	Clouds, then sun		Clouds clearing		Clouds, then sun		Mostly sunny		Mostly sunny; hot	
Tuesday	Sunny	74/55	Clearing	78/57	Clearing	65/55	Mostly sunny	60/34	Sunny	94/70
Wednesday	Mostly sunny	77/55	Mostly sunny	84/57	Mostly sunny	68/55	Mostly sunny	62/36	Sunny; hot	94/72
Thursday	Partly sunny	77/56	Sunny	84/58	Partly sunny	66/55	Mostly sunny	66/39	Hot	100/70
Friday	Partly sunny	79/57	Mostly sunny	83/58	Partly sunny	67/57	Mostly sunny	68/44	Hot	102/70

Air quality

Good ● Moderate ● Unhealthful for: ● Sensitive people ● All ○ Not Available

South Coast Air Quality Management District forecasts air quality



Surf and sea

POINT CONCEPTION TO MEXICO

Inner waters: Wind southeast at 5-10 knots, turning southwest at 10-15 knots in the afternoon. Wind waves up to 2 feet with a west swell of 4-6 feet.

Surf zone: Moderate potential for strong rip currents at L.A., Ventura, Orange and S.D. county beaches and low at S.B. County beaches.

County	Height	Period	Direction	Temp
Santa Barbara	1-3'	8 sec	W	57
Ventura	2-4'	8 sec	W	57
Los Angeles	2-4'	9 sec	WSW	61
Orange	2-4'	12 sec	WSW	61
San Diego	2-4'	12 sec	WSW	62

Tides

L.A. Outer Harbor, in feet.

Today	2:43p	2.9 Hi	7:22a	0.0 Lo
	------ Hi		5:29p	2.8 Lo
Tue.	12:15a	4.8 Hi	8:30a	0.3 Lo
	------ Hi		------ Lo	

UV index

Minutes to burn for sensitive people

Las Vegas, 25 — Phoenix, 25

Los Angeles, 30 — San Francisco, 25

Sun and moon

Today's rise/set

	Los Angeles Co.	Orange Co.	Ventura Co.
Sun	6:12a/7:31p	6:11a/7:30p	6:16a/7:36p
Moon	9:15a/none	9:14a/none	9:19a/none

April 27 — May 5 — May 12 — May 19

Almanac

Sunday Downtown readings

Temperature	Los Angeles	Fullerton	Ventura
High/low	75/59	71/58	66/55
Normal high/low	73/56	75/55	68/49
High/low a year ago	72/53	80/54	69/50
Record high/date	100/1910	90/2020	88/1995
Record low/date	42/1896	44/2010	41/1967

Precipitation	Los Angeles	Fullerton	Ventura
24-hour total (as of 5 p.m.)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Season total (since Oct. 1)	27.48	20.53	25.42
Last season (Oct. 1 to date)	12.16	6.46	11.33
Season norm (Oct. 1 to date)	13.60	11.21	15.45
Humidity (high/low)	93/49	100/56	96/75

California cities

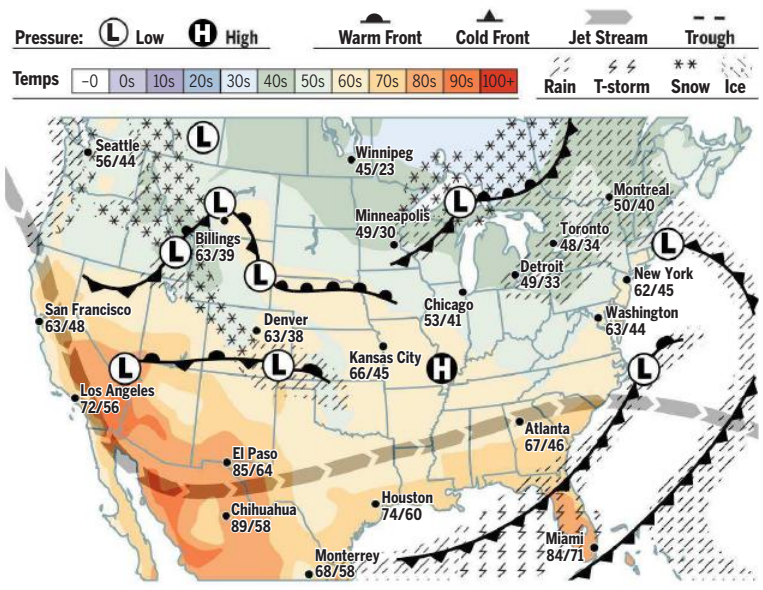
City	Sunday Hi	Lo	Prcp.	Today Hi	Lo	Tuesday Hi	Lo
Anaheim	74	58	--	74	56	73	54
Avalon/Catalina	72	62	--	66	55	64	54
Bakersfield	83	55	--	80	56	82	59
Barstow	89	59	--	90	58	88	57
Big Bear Lake	63	36	--	65	36	60	34
Bishop	82	40	--	83	46	79	43
Burbank	76	59	--	75	56	73	54
Camarillo	69	52	--	68	53	69	52
Chatsworth	84	56	--	77	56	78	57
Chino	80	54	--	77	53	78	49
Compton	69	57	--	72	58	71	55
Dana Point	64	57	--	66	57	64	57
Death Valley	99	75	--	98	81	95	75
Del Mar	63	56	--	62	58	62	56
Escondido	80	55	--	73	53	74	50
Eureka	54	51	.04	57	44	59	45
Fallbrook	74	53	--	72	53	71	51
Fresno	83	58	--	82	53	80	57
Fullerton	71	58	--	74	60	74	57
Hemet	82	49	--	79	50	78	48
Hesperia	82	48	--	84	49	79	50
Huntington Beach	68	58	--	66	60	66	57
Idyllwild	71	42	--	68	51	70	50
Irvine	71	56	--	71	57	70	55

City	Sunday Hi	Lo	Prcp.	Today Hi	Lo	Tuesday Hi	Lo
L.A. D'ntown/USC	75	59	--	72	56	74	55
L.A. Int'l. Airport	69	57	--	67	58	68	57
Laguna Beach	69	56	--	66	58	65	58
Lancaster	84	58	--	84	56	85	50
Long Beach	66	59	--	70	59	69	56
Mammoth Lakes	59	29	--	65	34	61	34
Mission Viejo	74	52	--	70	55	68	53
Monrovia	77	52	--	76	54	77	56
Monterey	58	51	--	62	47	64	48
Mt. Wilson	67	54	--	57	54	55	49
Needles	95	63	--	95	68	90	65
Newport Beach	68	58	--	66	60	64	58
Northridge	81	58	--	78	55	76	56
Oakland	63	52	--	64	46	71	47
Oceanside	67	53	--	70	57	70	56
Ojai	79	48	--	76	47	74	54
Ontario	81	56	--	76	54	78	50
Palm Springs	98	70	--	94	65	94	70
Pasadena	78	59	--	74	55	76	56
Paso Robles	79	43	--	83	40	83	45
Redding	83	52	--	78	58	84	60
Riverside	82	48	--	77	50	79	47
Sacramento	82	54	--	78	51	86	51
San Bernardino	84	56	--	80	54	80	55

City	Sunday Hi	Lo	Prcp.	Today Hi	Lo	Tuesday Hi	Lo
San Diego	65	59	--	67	60	66	57
San Francisco	61	53	--	63	48	69	51
San Gabriel	xx	xx	--	75	55	76	54
San Jose	69	52	--	70	46	76	51
San Luis Obispo	66	49	--	73	47	69	49
Santa Ana	68	60	--	71	60	69	58
Santa Barbara	67	52	--	67	52	64	51
Santa Clarita	81	56	--	83	54	82	57
Santa Monica Pier	67	55	--	65	56	65	55
Santa Paula	77	50	--	73	49	74	53
Santa Rosa	81	50	--	75	43	82	45
Simi Valley	78	54	--	75	54	77	51
Tahoe Valley	57	29	--	61	32	60	32
Temecula	78	52	--	76	50	77	49
Thousand Oaks	75	57	--	71	52	71	51
Torrance	73	57	--	68	58	68	58
UCLA	68	58	--	67	57	68	54
Van Nuys	81	60	--	77	58	77	57
Ventura	66	55	--	63	51	63	51
Whittier Hills	75	58	--	74	56	73	55
Woodland Hills	85	53	--	76	55	74	53
Wrightwood	67	44	--	68	50	63	46
Yorba Linda	77	55	--	74	55	74	52
Yosemite Valley	71	45	--	72	47	76	42

Today in North America

Rain and mountain snow in the Northwest: A minor storm system will bring rain and mountain snow to parts of the Northwest. A storm could also bring showers and high-elevation snow to the Northeast. Storms are also expected to fire up along a front in the Florida peninsula.



U.S. cities

SUNDAY'S EXTREMES FOR THE 48 CONTIGUOUS STATES

High 99 in Death Valley, Calif. **Low** 5 in Daniel, Wyo.

City	Sunday Hi	Lo	Prcp.	Today Hi	Lo	Sky
Albany	53	50	1.65	55	37	Cy
Albuquerque	68	37	--	71	50	Pc
Anchorage	39	27	Tr	40	28	Pc
Aspen	51	25	--	50	32	Cy
Atlanta	71	51	--	67	46	Cy
Austin	61	51	.02	70	58	Pc
Baltimore	65	48	.03	61	40	Pc
Boise	61	41	.06	54	34	Sh
Boston	51	46	.70	56	44	Cy
Buffalo	46	42	Tr	46	35	Sf
Burlington, Vt.	49	47	.76	49	38	Cy
Charleston, S.C.	79	52	--	73	53	Pc
Charlotte	73	44	--	68	44	Su
Chicago	42	36	--	53	41	Pc
Cincinnati	46	34	--	53	34	Su
Cleveland	48	36	Tr	49	34	Sf
Columbia, S.C.	78	43	--	65	45	Pc
Columbus	48	36	--	50	32	Pc
Dallas/Ft.Worth	59	47	.10	64	54	Cy
Denver	57	25	--	63	38	Cy
Detroit	52	35	.04	49	33	Sh
El Paso	75	48	--	85	64	W
Eugene	56	52	.15	60	37	Sh
Fort Myers	92	72	--	85	67	Ts
Hartford	56	48	3.30	60	38	Cy
Honolulu	84	70	Tr	83	73	Pc
Houston	62	58	.05	74	60	Pc
Indianapolis	45	34	Tr	53	37	Pc
Jacksonville, Fla.	79	54	--	75	59	Cy
Kansas City	57	31	--	66	45	Pc
Knoxville	55	45	--	61	38	Su
Las Vegas	86	64	--	89	66	Su
Louisville	53	40	--	60	40	Su
Medford	72	55	.03	64	38	Pc
Memphis	59	46	Tr	66	48	Cy
Miami	87	73	--	84	71	Ts
Milwaukee	42	37	Tr	50	37	Pc
Minneapolis	45	29	Tr	49	30	Pc
Nashville	62	42	Tr	63	41	Su
New Orleans	77	64	Tr	75	62	Pc
New York	69	51	2.15	62	45	Pc
Norfolk	71	55	.77	60	51	Su
Oklahoma City	63	40	Tr	62	49	Ts
Omaha	56	26	--	64	40	Cy
Orlando	87	69	--	83	64	Ts
Philadelphia	68	51	.38	62	43	Pc
Phoenix	96	66	--	93	68	Su
Pittsburgh	45	38	.01	49	31	Cy
Portland, Ore.	55	50	.35	58	41	Sh
Providence	53	47	.91	61	42	Cy
Raleigh/Durham	74	44	--	66	44	Su
Reno	72	47	--	72	40	Su
Richmond	72	49	Tr	66	43	Su
St. Louis	58	37	Tr	63	47	Pc
Salt Lake City	62	38	--	61	38	Ts

City	Sunday Hi	Lo	Prcp.	Today Hi	Lo	Sky
Seattle	54	47	.30	56	44	Sh
Tampa	89	69	--	82	68	Ts
Tucson	92	60	--	89	62	Su
Tulsa	64	35	--	69	50	Sh
Washington, D.C.	66	52	.01	63	44	Pc
Wichita	63	32	--	65	48	Sh

World

City	Sunday Hi	Lo	Prcp.	Today Hi	Lo	Sky
Acapulco	89	75	--	87	73	Su
Amsterdam	61	45	1.08	50	39	Sh
Athens	72	57	--	70	55	Pc
Bangkok	99	82	--	100	83	Su
Barcelona	67	59	--	67	56	Pc
Berlin	63	52	.08	61	43	Sh
Cabo San Lucas	93	66	--	86	65	Pc
Cairo	85	63	--	86	62	Su
Dubai	87	77	--	92	78	Pc
Dublin	54	41	.16	49	30	Cy
Havana	86	66	--	87	68	Ts
Ho Chi Minh City	97	79	--	100	82	Su
Hong Kong	84	75	.37	82	74	Ts
Istanbul	61	52	--	64	53	Su
Jerusalem	72	52	--	71	49	Su
Johannesburg	75	53	--	77	54	Pc
Kuala Lumpur	90	77	.24	92	77	Ts
Lima	80	71	--	80	71	Pc
London	59	50	.32	52	37	Sh
Madrid	75	45	--	79	50	Pc
Mecca	105	80	--	105	81	Su
Mexico City	80	56	--	79	56	Pc
Montreal	50	48	.81	50	40	Cy
Moscow	64	39	--	71	47	Cy
Mumbai	88	78	--	91	81	Hz
New Delhi	88	75	.06	93	70	Cy
Paris	60	46	.30	57	42	Sh
Prague	60	50	.27	58	41	Sh
Rome	72	48	--	67	51	Ts
Seoul	72	48	--	71	50	Pc
Singapore	88	81	.09	89	79	Ts
Taipei City	77	68	.01	75	65	Sh
Tokyo	63	48	--	62	51	W
Vancouver	52	48	.47	54	44	Sh
Vienna	72	48	.03	58	46	R

Key: **Su** sunny; **Pc** partly cloudy; **Cy** cloudy; **Fg** foggy; **Prcp** precipitation; **Dr** drizzle; **Hz** hazy **Sh** showers; **Ts** thunderstorms; **R** rain; **Sn** snow; **Sf** snow flurries; **I** ice; **Rs** rain/snow; **W** windy; **Tr** trace. **Notes:** National extremes exclude Alaska and Hawaii. Missing data indicated by "xx". Sunday's readings as of 5 p.m.

Forecasts by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2023

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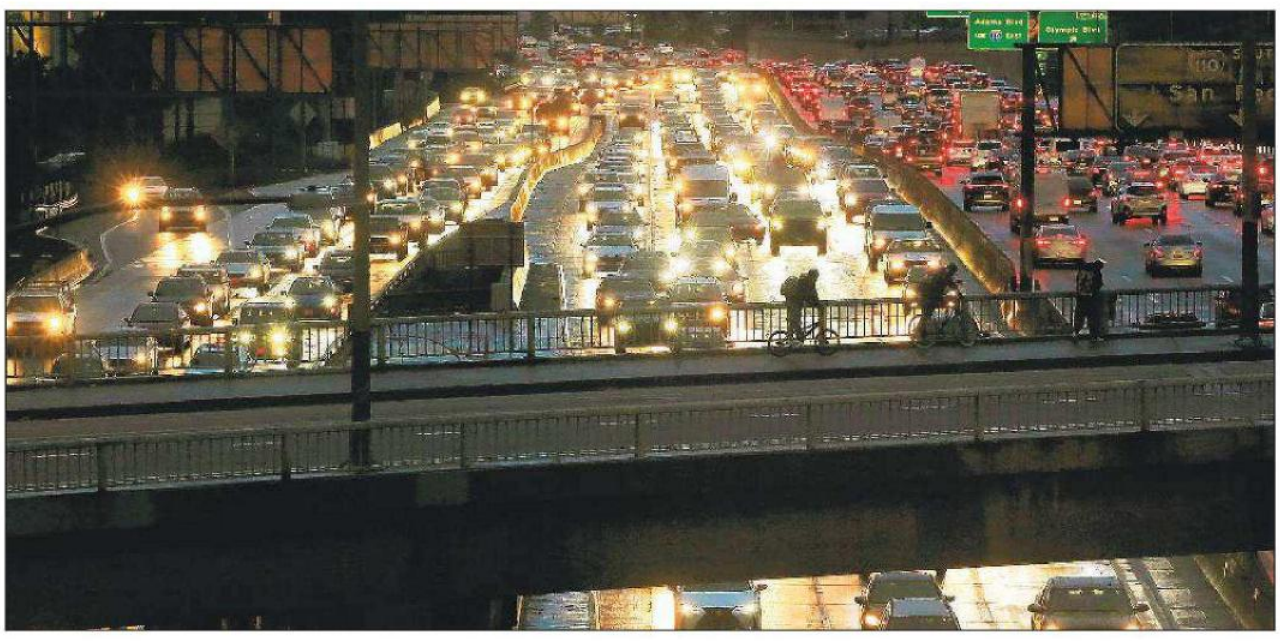
Judges rule honking is not protected free speech

[**Honk,** from B1]
along a roadway, is not protected free speech.

The ruling this month stemmed from a lawsuit filed against the California Highway Patrol and the San Diego County Sheriff's Department by San Diego resident Susan Porter after she was cited in 2017 for misuse of her horn. She had honked in support of protesters outside the office of Rep. Darrell Issa (R-Bonsall).

Although the ticket was dismissed after the citing officer did not show up in court, Porter filed the suit alleging that the vehicle code statute under which she was cited violates the 1st Amendment. The statute prohibits the use of a horn except to warn of a safety hazard.

"In a multitude of circumstances, drivers routinely sound vehicle horns to express support or approval of parades, protests, rallies, demonstrations, or fundraising or for other expressive purposes such as greeting a relative, friend, or acquaintance," Porter's attorneys wrote in the complaint filed in 2018.



LUIS SINCO Los Angeles Times

THE NEXT time the urge to blare the horn strikes amid gridlock, think again. A three-judge panel says limits can be placed on the use of a horn in the name of public safety. Above, traffic crawls on the 110 Freeway in L.A.

Porter feared that she might be cited again if she attempted to honk her car horn in support of other protests or demonstrations, according to the complaint.

"Vehicle Code [Section] 27001 violates the 1st Amendment because it prohibits numerous uses of a vehicle horn for speech or expression," Porter's attorneys wrote.

Porter lost the case but filed an appeal, resulting in Circuit Judge Michelle Friedland's majority opinion stating that limits can be placed on the use of a horn in the name of public safety.

Friedland rejected the plaintiff's claim that the statute violates the 1st Amendment by allowing for some expression, such as a honk in the event of a driving hazard, but not for all, like a honk at a political protest.

"The relevant distinction Section 27001 makes is not, as Porter suggests, between honks intended to convey warnings and honks intended to convey other messages," Friedland wrote. "Rather, the law prohibits *all* driver-initiated horn use except when such use is 'reasonably necessary to [e]nsure safe operation' of the vehicle.

"To be sure," Friedland wrote, "most non-warning honks do not create distractions resulting in accidents, but we discern no plausible means by which California could permit non-distracting honks while prohibiting distracting honks."

In a dissenting opinion, Circuit Judge Marsha Berzon wrote that "there is no evidence in the record ... that such political expressive horn use jeopardizes traffic safety or frustrates noise control."

"I would hold that Section 27001 is unconstitutional as applied to political expressive conduct such as Porter's," Berzon wrote.

Newsom could face a tough task in replacing Feinstein

[**Skelton,** from B1]
then-Secretary of State Alex Padilla. The governor's subsequent promise was an effort to appease disappointed Black women, an important Democratic constituency.

It now would be politically untenable for Newsom to go back on his word, especially if he has national ambitions. Black politicians and voters may be relatively small in numbers, but they punch above their weight. Ask Biden which voting bloc rescued his presidential campaign in the 2020 primaries.

The most obvious choice for Newsom would be Rep. Barbara Lee, 76, of Oakland, who has 25 years of congressional experience. She's a bit more liberal than Newsom and most Californians, but that wouldn't be her main problem for the governor.

Lee is one of three major candidates in the 2024 Senate race. Her crowning with the title "senator" could be a significant campaign benefit. Newsom might consider it unfair to the two frontrunners — Reps. Adam B. Schiff, 62, of Burbank and Katie Porter, 49, of Irvine — to give Lee a boost.

"What's wrong with that? He's committed or not committed" to gaining a Black female senator, says Aimee Allison, founder and president of She the People, an activist group that pushes for electing more women of color.

Allison supports Lee.

If Newsom passed up Lee and chose another Black woman who then ran for the office, it would conversely hurt Lee's campaign. With two Black women competing, both their core bases would be divided. That risks angering Lee's supporters, including Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass.

There's also another reality: A new 2024 Senate candidate would begin her campaign far behind in organizing and fundraising, making a Newsom appointment less attractive than normal for an ambitious politician.

The primary election will be held earlier than usual, on March 5. It's already late in the game for a new entry with low statewide name identification.

So, Newsom might want to appoint a "caretaker" senator, a Black woman who would finish Feinstein's term but agree to not run for election.

But, as I've written, that wouldn't be in keeping with the spirit of the governor's pledge. He seemed to be promising to anoint a Black woman as a full-fledged senator, not a temp.

Anyway, it might be difficult to recruit an experienced legislator of the quality California deserves who would be willing to give up her current seat to become a short-timer.

Former Rep. Bass, 69, would be a terrific senator, but no way would she step down as L.A. mayor. Anyway, that would risk political suicide just after voters elected her.

L.A. County Supervisor Holly Mitchell, 58, a former influential state legislator, has senatorial qualities. But Mitchell has said she's not interested, either as a full-timer or a temp. She's running for reelection next year.

San Francisco Mayor London Breed, 48, hasn't said much, but it wouldn't make sense for her to step down as leader of a beautiful — if challenged — city to become a temporary senator. She's also running for reelection.

Besides Lee, there are two other Black female House members from California, both Angelenos: 17-term Rep. Maxine Waters, 84, an outspoken liberal, and newly elected Rep. Sydney Kamlager-Dove, 50. I can't see either giving up her seat.

There's a relatively painless solution to the seat-surrender dilemma. The governor could appoint either California Secretary of State Shirley Weber, 74, or newly elected Controller Malia Cohen, 45, as a caretaker senator and temporarily place a bureaucrat in her basically ministerial job. Then after next year's election, he could return Weber or Cohen to her state post.

Or he could reach far afield for a nonpolitician caretaker — like Oprah Winfrey of Montecito.

That would be fun.

Los Angeles Times D

SPORTS

MONDAY, APRIL 24, 2023 :: LATIMES.COM/SPORTS

A bear trap is where Brooks lands

BILL PLASCHKE

Dillon Brooks did more than poke a bear, he jabbed a finger into the face of an entire city.

Los Angeles poked back. LeBron James fought back. The Lakers stormed back.

Three days after James absorbed some of the most pointed personal insults of his polarizing career, Crypto.com Arena came alive Saturday night with a swift response and scintillating revenge.

The fans booed the Memphis Grizzlies' trash-talking Brooks into oblivion. They cheered the offended James into a lather. They wouldn't sit down and they wouldn't shut up, and by the time they caught their breath, their Lakers had sprinted to the greatest playoff first quarter in franchise history, streaking to a 35-9 lead and eventually rolling to a 111-101 victory to take a two-games-to-one lead in the first-round playoff series.

"It was amazing," said James, who was so emotionally drained he yawned his way through the postgame interview. "It was amazing."

The winner of Game 3 in a tied series advances 73% of the time. But if the Crypto.com Arena crowd remains 100% invested, and the Lakers continue to 100% feed off of that, this one feels about 100% over.

The Grizzlies have no

[See **Plaschke,** D4]

NBA PLAYOFFS

Lakers vs. Memphis

Game 4: Lakers lead 2-1

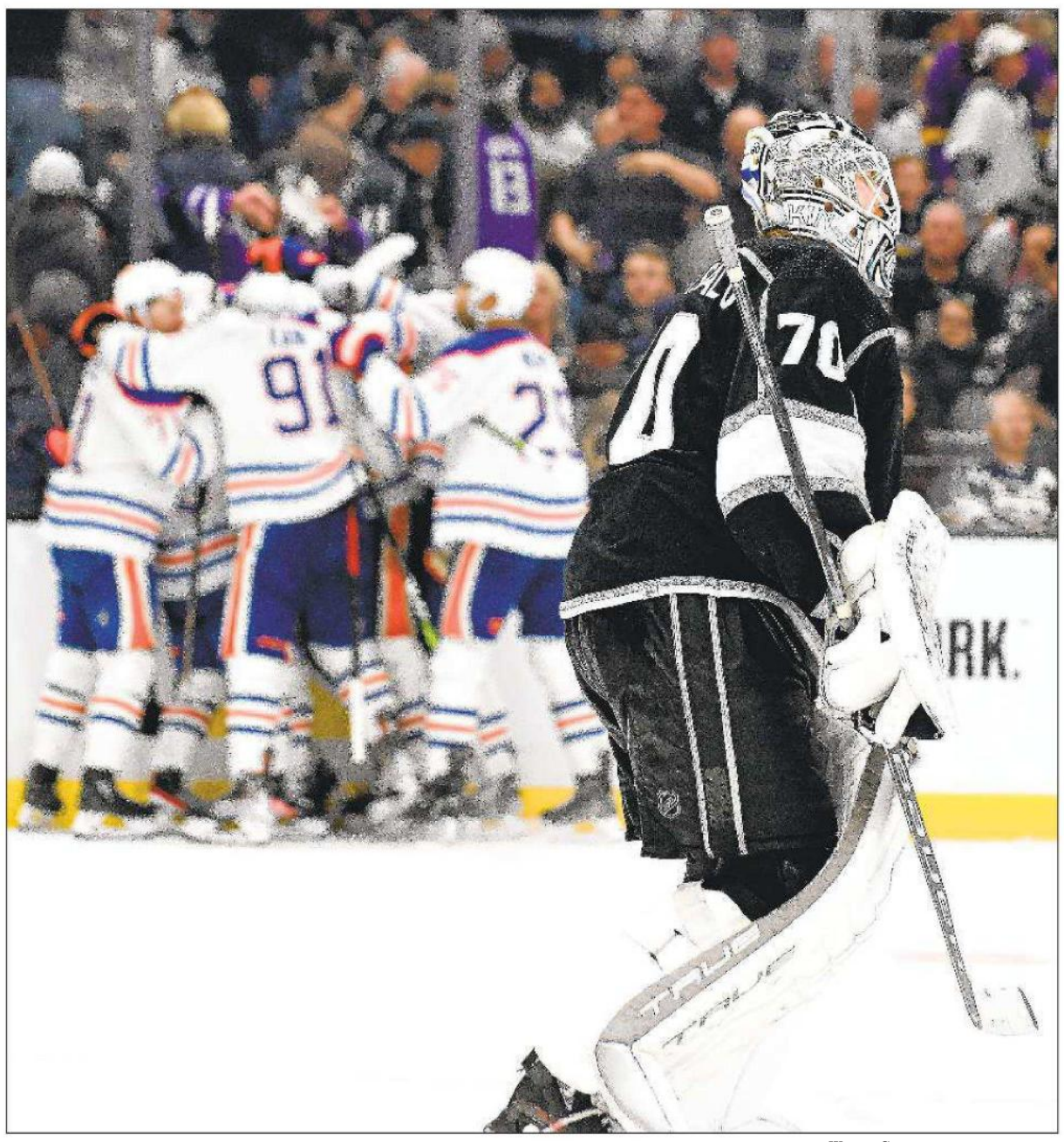
Tonight at Crypto.com Arena
TV: TNT, SpecSN, 7 p.m.

Lakers' go-to guy: Anthony Davis embraces role as the No. 1 option on offense. **D4**

STANLEY CUP PLAYOFFS :: FIRST ROUND

EDMONTON 5, KINGS 4 (OT)

SERIES TIED 2-2 | **GAME 5:** TUESDAY AT EDMONTON, 6:30 P.M., CH. 13, ESPN



WALLY SKALIJ Los Angeles Times

JOONAS KORPISALO skates off the ice as the Oilers rejoice in Zach Hyman's overtime goal that tied the series 2-2. L.A. had chased Oilers starter Stuart Skinner from the net before Edmonton's comeback.

Close to stranglehold on series, but they lose grip

Kings squander three-goal lead, fall in another OT thriller

HELENE ELLIOTT

The win was on the Kings' sticks, in their hands, in their building, in the third period of a wildly fluctuating game.

They were four minutes away from putting their skates on the throats of the Edmonton Oilers, of proving their resilience yet again and moving one victory away from advancing to the second round of the Stanley Cup playoffs.

All of those visions vanished when the favored Oilers, faced with being pushed to the brink of elimination from the Stanley Cup playoffs, pushed back with a ferocious effort that showed the depth of their character might just equal the great depth of their scoring.

After the Kings had played their best period of the playoffs — and their most effective 20 minutes in a long time — they had a three-goal lead, only to lose it in a frantic, ice-tilted-in-one-direction middle period. Even so, they surged ahead again early in the third period, on a goal by defenseman Matt Roy, only to be stymied when Oilers winger Evander Kane's wrist shot eluded Joonas Korpisalo with 3:02 left in regulation.

It was almost not a surprise when Zach Hyman ripped a shot past Korpisalo at 10:39 of sudden-death play to give the Oilers a 5-4 victory and tie the first-round series at two games each.

"I think we just didn't execute our game plan enough," Kings captain Anze Kopitar said, "therefore we were playing too much in our own zone, and they're obviously a good team and a skilled team, and the more you play in your zone, they're going to

[See **Elliott,** D5]

HOMERS REMAIN STRONG SUIT OF OFFENSE

Dodgers crush three long balls, including Muncy's MLB-best 11th, in series finale.

DODGERS 7
CHICAGO 3

BY JACK HARRIS

CHICAGO — This hasn't exactly been the offense the Dodgers had in mind.

The club might not have gone all-in on maximizing Major League Baseball's new rules, designing a roster only partially suited to small-ball tactics such as stolen bases and slap hitting.

Still, one month into the season, the Dodgers also didn't expect to be so home run reliant.

"When we put together this ballclub, we felt that the [batting] average, that the hit tool, was going to play a little bit more than it has and maybe kind of cut into the homers," manager Dave Roberts said.

Instead, this year's team has become the king of the three true outcomes — balancing its high strikeout rates and spotty situational hitting with a bunch of much-needed big flies.

On Sunday, the Dodgers got just enough of the latter, bashing three home runs in a 7-3 win over the Chicago Cubs.

The victory got the Dodgers (12-11) back over .500 for the first time in a week. It marked their first set of consecutive wins in 17 days. And, in their most common recipe for success thus far at the plate, it was predicated once again on the long ball,

[See **Dodgers,** D8]

ANGELS 4, KANSAS CITY 3

O'Hoppe's injury overshadows win

Team hits three straight homers, but catcher could miss six months. **D8**

ENERGY OFF THE CHARTS

Yabu brings excitement, new-age focus to old-ways Notre Dame in hopes of gaining the type of turnaround he produced elsewhere

BY STEVE HENSON

MEL MELCON Los Angeles Times

NEW SHERMAN OAKS Notre Dame High coach Evan Yabu is charged with returning the football program to its former glory as he did at Thousand Oaks.

Seeking only its third football coach in 43 years, venerable, staid Sherman Oaks Notre Dame High called an audible in December.

Instead of making the hiring equivalent of a plunge between the tackles, Knights athletic director Alec Moss went deep.

He went young. He went bold.

With the blessing of an advisory committee of administrators, faculty, parents and alumni, Moss hired Evan Yabu, architect of a stunning turnaround at his alma mater, Thousand Oaks High, yet someone outside the proud, loyal and sometimes hidebound Notre Dame tribe.

Moss became sold on Yabu during an interview over dinner.

"It lasted 3½ hours and felt like 20 minutes," Moss said. "It was free-flowing with such great information going back and forth. His

[See **Yabu,** D3]

Coveted players in NFL draft not just quarterbacks

USC receiver Addison is among the talented non-passers who are targeted by teams.

BY SAM FARMER

One is wideout Jordan Addison, who had tremendous success at schools on opposite sides of the country.

Another is defensive tackle Jalen Carter, once projected to be the top pick but now steeped in controversy.

Yet another is cornerback Joey Porter Jr., with the weighty challenge of living up to his own name.

These are some of the *other* guys, the non-quarterbacks who will be selected Thursday in the first round of the NFL draft and will be rookies to watch on Sundays this upcoming season.

The NFL is holding the draft in Kansas City, Mo., for the first time, with the first round Thursday, the second and third rounds Friday, and rounds four through seven Saturday. Seventeen prospects are planning to attend, among them Addison, Carter and Porter.

Three quarterbacks could be among the first five players selected: Alabama's Bryce Young, Ohio State's C.J. Stroud and Florida's Anthony Richardson. Kentucky's Will Levis and Tennessee's Hendon Hooker also might go in the first round.

Porter, a star cornerback at Penn State, is named for his father, the five-time All-Pro linebacker and Pittsburgh Steelers legend.

"My dad's been there before," the younger Porter

[See **NFL draft,** D2]

NFL draft

- **Round 1:** Thursday, 5 p.m.
- **Rounds 2-3:** Friday, 4 p.m.
- **Rounds 4-7:** Saturday, 9 a.m.

TV: Ch. 7, ESPN, NFL Network
All times PDT

PRO CALENDAR

	MON 24	TUE 25	WED 26	THU 27	FRI 28
DODGERS		at Pittsburgh 3:30 SNLA	at Pittsburgh 3:30 SNLA	at Pittsburgh 9:30 a.m. SNLA	ST. LOUIS 7 Apple TV+
ANGELS	OAKLAND 6:30 BSW, FS1	OAKLAND 6:30 BSW	OAKLAND 6:30 BSW	OAKLAND 1 BSW	at Milwaukee 5 BSW
LAKERS	MEMPHIS* 7 SpecSN, TNT		at Memphis* 4:30 SpecSN, TNT		MEMPHIS* (if necessary) TBD
CLIPPERS		at Phoenix* 7 BSSC, TNT		PHOENIX* (if necessary) TBD	
KINGS		at Edmonton* 6:30 Ch. 13, ESPN			
GALAXY	SATURDAY AT ORLANDO, 4:30, APPLE TV				
LAFC			at Phila.** 6		
ANGEL CITY	SATURDAY AT PORTLAND, 7:30, PARAMOUNT+				

Shade denotes home game. *Playoffs **CONCACAF Champions League

TODAY ON THE AIR

TIME	EVENT	ON THE AIR
BASEBALL		
3:30 p.m.	Boston at Baltimore	**TV:** MLB
6:30 p.m.	Oakland at Angels	**TV:** BSW, FS1 **R:** 830, 1220
BASKETBALL: NBA PLAYOFFS, FIRST ROUND		
4:30 p.m.	Milwaukee at Miami, Game 4	**TV:** TNT
7 p.m.	Memphis at Lakers, Game 4	**TV:** SpecSN, TNT **R:** 710, 1330
COLLEGE SOFTBALL		
4 p.m.	Florida at Tennessee	**TV:** SEC
HOCKEY: STANLEY CUP PLAYOFFS, FIRST ROUND		
4 p.m.	New Jersey at New York Rangers, Game 4	**TV:** ESPN, ESPND
4:30 p.m.	Toronto at Tampa Bay, Game 4	**TV:** TBS
6:30 p.m.	Vegas at Winnipeg, Game 4	**TV:** ESPN
7 p.m.	Colorado at Seattle, Game 4	**TV:** TBS
SOCCER		
10 a.m.	Turkey, Istanbulspor at Fenerbahce	**TV:** beIN1, beINes
11:45 a.m.	Italy, Roma at Atalanta	**TV:** CBSSN
Noon	Portugal, Sporting CP at Vitória SC	**TV:** GOLTV
4 p.m.	Uruguay, Nacional at Montevideo Wanderers	**TV:** GOLTV
6:30 p.m.	Peru, Sporting Cristal at Universitario	**TV:** GOLTV
8 p.m.	Mexico, women, Tijuana at Monterrey	**TV:** FOXD

NASCAR

Busch's car has just enough fuel to win

ASSOCIATED PRESS

TALLADEGA, Ala. — Kyle Busch used miscommunication with his Richard Childress Racing crew to win at Talladega Superspeedway on Sunday in double overtime and under caution.

It was the second victory of the season for Busch in his new No. 8 Chevrolet and his second career win at Talladega — 15 years apart. The two-time NASCAR Cup Series champion didn't even lead his first laps of the race until the start of the second overtime.

It was the 13th win for RCR at Talladega, and team owner Richard Childress entered the postrace news conference carrying an open bottle of champagne from his vineyard.

But as the race headed toward additional laps, Busch's crew chief made a late call for Busch to come in for some gas.

The message was received too late, and Busch had to save fuel just to ensure he could complete another two-lap sprint.

Bubba Wallace surged past him into the lead from the outside line but was turned by Ryan Blaney to trigger a multicar crash that automatically ended the race.

"Sometimes you've got to be lucky. Some of these races come down to that," Busch said. "You've got to take them when they come. The seas kind of parted there when they went up the racetrack. I saw [Wallace] turn just a little bit sideways, and I was like, 'Get out of the way!' Just miss it and try to see if I was ahead of [Blaney] by the time it was called."

Busch still had to make it all the way around the track to take the checkered flag, with his crew urging him to "Save! Save! Save!" his fuel.

He finally seemed out of gas when he attempted to do a victory burnout.

"We were sweating it being close ... and I'm like: 'We've got to gamble. We're up here.' You've got to take the track position when you have it and go get what you can on the restarts and see what happens. And lo and behold, it worked out. So knock on wood for this one."

NASCAR had to examine the final finishing order as Busch celebrated at the finish line. There were 57 lead changes.

Team Penske's Blaney finished second and seemed frustrated with Wallace, his close friend, for blocking him on the final lap.

"In my mind, you kind of triple move like that, triple block, and you can't block three times," Blaney said. "Runs are just so big, and as the leader with Bubba, he's trying to block, which is the right thing to do, but I think he kind of moved three times."

Chase Briscoe from Stewart-Haas Racing was third, followed by Chris Buescher and Brad Keselowski of RFK Racing as Ford drivers were second through fifth.

Erik Jones of Legacy Motor Club was sixth in a Chevrolet, followed by William Byron of Hendrick Motorsports and finally Christopher Bell, the highest-finishing Toyota driver at eighth.

AUTO RACING RESULTS

NASCAR
Cup Series
Geico 500
At Talladega, Ala.
Talladega Superspeedway
Track: 2.66-mile tri-oval

1. Kyle Busch, Chevrolet, 196 laps, 40 points. 2. Ryan Blaney, Ford, 196, 35. 3. Chris Buescher, Ford, 196, 34. 4. Chase Briscoe, Ford, 196, 33. 5. Brad Keselowski, Ford, 196, 32. 6. Erik Jones, Chevrolet, 196, 31. 7. William Byron, Chevrolet, 196, 37. 8. Christopher Bell, Toyota, 196, 29. 9. Daniel Suárez, Chevrolet, 196, 29. 10. Todd Gilliland, Ford, 196, 27.

11. J.J. Yeley, Ford, 196, 0. 12. Chase Elliott, Chevrolet, 196, 44. 13. Tyler Reddick, Toyota, 196, 24. 14. Alex Bowman, Chevrolet, 196, 32. 15. Denny Hamlin, Toyota, 196, 25. 16. Ricky Stenhouse Jr., Chevrolet, 196, 23. 17. Ty Dillon, Chevrolet, 196, 20. 18. Justin Haley, Chevrolet, 196, 19. 19. B.J. McLeod, Chevrolet, 196, 18. 20. Aric Almirola, Ford, 196, 27.

21. Kevin Harvick, Ford, 196, 24. 22. Ross Chastain, Chevrolet, 196, 23. 23. Austin Hill, Chevrolet, 196, 0. 24. Corey Lajoie, Chevrolet, 196, 13. 25. Riley Herbst, Ford, 196, 0. 26. Austin Cindric, Ford, 196, 16. 27. Martin Truex Jr., Toyota, 196, 15. 28. Bubba Wallace, Toyota, accident, 195, 16. 29. A.J. Allmendinger, Chevrolet, accident, 195, 8. 30. Joey Logano, Ford, 195, 10.

Average speed of winner: 146.569 mph. **Time of race**: 3 hours 33 minutes 25 seconds. **Margin of victory**: Caution. **Caution flags**: 8 for 34 laps. **Lead changes**: 57 among 21 drivers.

Top 16 in points: 1. Bell, 302; 2. Chastain, 297; 3. Harvick, 287; 4. Larson, 285; 5. Truex, 266; 6. Reddick, 265; 7. Logano, 258; 8. Busch, 250; 9. Hamlin, 247; 10. Blaney, 241; 11. Bowman, 237; 12. Keselowski, 235; 13. Stenhouse, 223; 14. Briscoe, 210; 15. Byron, 208; 16. Buescher, 206.

GOLF

Vu secures first major in playoff

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lilia Vu birdied the first playoff hole to win her first major at the Chevron Championship after fellow American Angel Yin hit her approach shot into the water in The Woodlands, Texas, on Sunday.

Yin's second shot came up short and left, and splashed into the pond guarding the par-five 18th hole, and Vu hit her approach just over the green. Vu used a putter from off the green. She came up well short but converted from about 10 feet for the win.

The 25-year-old Californian who played at UCLA won for the second time on the LPGA Tour and took a celebratory leap into the pond, a tradition borrowed from this tournament's former venue at Mission Hills in Rancho Mirage.

Vu birdied her last two holes for a four-under-par 68 and a four-day total of 10-under 278 at Carlton Woods, then waited as other contenders — including Yin — faltered.

But Yin, after bogeys on the 16th and 17th holes, birdied the 18th to force the playoff.

Vu considered quitting the game after a rough start to her pro career. She regrouped and won three times on the developmental Epson Tour in 2021, then had a solid 2022 before breaking through in February with a victory at the Honda LPGA Thailand.

ERIC GAY Associated Press

FORMER BRUIN LILIA VU celebrates her playoff win against Angel Yin in the Chevron Championship.

Hardy-Riley pair take Zurich Classic

Nick Hardy and Davis Riley birdied four of their final six holes — highlighted by Riley's 33-foot birdie putt from the fringe on the par-three 17th — to give both players their first PGA Tour victory at the Zurich Classic in Avondale, La.

They began the final round three strokes back and closed with a seven-under 65 in alternate-shot play to finish with a tournament-record total of 30-under 258 at TPC Louisiana, eclipsing the 259 posted by 2022 winners Patrick Cantlay and Xander Schauffele.

Hardy and Riley were two shots better than Canadians Adam Hadwin and Nick Taylor. Each takes home $1.24 million and earns a two-year exemption for winning the PGA Tour's only team event.

Hadwin and Taylor shot a 63, tying the course record in alternate shot that was set in Friday's second round by Cantlay and Schauffele.

Gooch picks up a LIV triumph

Talor Gooch saw his double-digit overnight lead almost evaporate but rallied late to win the inaugural LIV Australia tournament at the Grange Golf Club in Adelaide.

After two bogey-free 10-under 62 rounds, Gooch shot a one-over 73 to clinch his maiden LIV Golf tournament victory by three strokes from a fast-moving Anirban Lahiri.

As tournament leader, the 31-year-old American began his round on the first hole in the shotgun-start format and posted a birdie at the par-three fifth, but his bogey-free run finally ended at the par-five seventh.

Lahiri shot a 65 to finish second at 16 under, two shots ahead of a four-way tie for third with Cameron Tringale (67), Pat Perez (67), Patrick Reed (65) and British Open champion Cam Smith (66), all finishing at 15-under 201.

Phil Mickelson closed with a 69 to tie for 11th at 12 under.

Hensby captures first Champions win

Mark Hensby parred the fourth playoff hole after Charlie Wi hit his approach into the water to win the Invited Celebrity Classic in Irving, Texas, for his first PGA Tour Champions victory.

The 51-year-old Australian closed with a one-under 70 at Las Colinas to match Wi at 12-under 201 through 54 holes.

GOLF RESULTS

$25-MILLION LIV TOUR ADELAIDE
At Adelaide, Australia—Par 72
The Grange Golf Club—6,968 yards
Final 54-hole results

Talor Gooch, $4,000,000 .....62-62-73–197 -19
Anirban Lahiri, $2,250,000 .....69-66-65–200 -16
Patrick Reed, $1,000,000 .....71-65-65–201 -15
Cameron Smith, $1,000,000 .....69-66-66–201 -15
Cameron Tringale, $1,000,000 ...69-65-67–201 -15
Pat Perez, $1,000,000 .....67-67-67–201 -15
Peter Uihlein, $533,333 .....68-68-66–202 -14
Dean Burmester, $533,333 .....66-69-67–202 -14
Charl Schwartzel, $533,333 .....68-66-68–202 -14

$8.6-MILLION ZURICH CLASSIC OF NEW ORLEANS
At New Orleans—Par 72
TPC Louisiana—7,425 yards
Final 72-hole results
258 (-30)—$1,242,700
D.Riley/N.Hardy (800) 64-66-63-65
260 (-28)—$507,400
N.Taylor/A.Hadwin (325) 66-67-64-63
261 (-27)—$332,175
W.Clark/B.Hossler (210) 61-67-62-71
262 (-26)—$261,225
T.Moore/M.NeSmith (163) 64-66-63-69
X.Schauffele/P.Cantlay (163) 67-63-66-66
263 (-25)—$208,550
S.Im/K.Mitchell (135) 62-67-62-72
265 (-23)—$163,400
B.Matthews/S.O'Hair (112) 61-69-64-71
S.Kim/T.Kim (112) 66-67-64-68

$5.1-MILLION THE CHEVRON CHAMPIONSHIP
At The Woodlands, Texas—Par 72
Nicklaus Course—6,824 yards
Final-72-hole results
x-won playoff
278 (-10)—$765,000
x-Lilia Vu 68-69-73-68
278 (-10)—$479,680
Angel Yin 69-70-67-72
279 (-9)—$347,974
Nelly Korda 68-70-70-71
280 (-8)—$188,300
Allisen Corpuz 72-67-67-74
A Lim Kim 71-65-72-72
Atthaya Thitikul 70-71-68-71
Albane Valenzuela 72-67-68-73
Amy Yang 73-69-65-73

$2-MILLION INVITED CELEBRITY CLASSIC
At Irving, Texas—Par 71
Las Colinas Country Club—6,703 yards
Final 54-hole results
201 (-12)—$300,000
x-Mark Hensby (won playoff) 66-65-70
201 (-12)—$176,000
Charlie Wi 69-64-68
202 (-11)—$144,000
Alex Cejka 66-64-72
203 (-10)—$108,000
Richard Green 70-68-65
Jerry Kelly 69-67-67
205 (-8)—$76,000
David Branshaw 68-67-70

WALLY SKALIJ Los Angeles Times

USC'S JORDAN ADDISON, who won the Biletnikoff Award at Pittsburgh in 2021, could go high in the draft.

Draft stocked at other positions

[**NFL draft,** from D1]

said in reference to his father's NFL career. "He's done it. I want to do the same thing and just be better. That's the main thing. He always told me he wants me to be better than him, so that's what I'm gonna strive to do and that's why I'm here."

Porter was a first-team All-Big Ten Conference selection last season, having given up just 143 yards receiving in 10 games and recording 11 pass breakups.

There's a good chance he will be chosen around the middle of the opening round, and the same goes for USC wide receiver Addison, who also has a Pittsburgh connection. He was a standout pass catcher for the University of Pittsburgh for two seasons before transferring to the Trojans.

At the scouting combine, Addison made it clear he would love to run a comeback pattern of sorts, to play for the Steelers at the next level. He welcomes a reunion with Kenny Pickett, his Pitt quarterback who was chosen in the first round by the Steelers last year.

"Hey man, if we reunite, that'd be good," Addison told reporters. "That'd be real cool. Real easy transition. Come get me."

There's recent precedent for that in the AFC North. Cincinnati's Joe Burrow has a favorite receiver in Ja'Marr Chase, his college wideout at Louisiana State.

Daniel Jeremiah, draft analyst for NFL Network, said the 5-foot-11, 173-pound Addison was his top receiver at the beginning of the evaluation process but dropped a bit because of his less-than-prototypical size.

"I wish he was heavier," Jeremiah said. "I don't love the 173-pound aspect, but this guy made more big plays down the field in '21 than anybody in the country. I know he can make big plays. He can get over the top. He is a talented guy. After the catch, he is not going to be able to break many tackles. Not real physical, but he can make you miss and run away from you. I think he plays fast.

"So smooth, fast, fluid guy. I've dropped him down a little bit from where I initially had him overall. He ended the process as my 15th player. I think he is somebody that's going to go off the board."

Addison won the 2021 Biletnikoff Award as college football's top wide receiver. At USC last season, he caught 59 passes for 875 yards and eight touchdowns, averaging 14.8 yards per reception. His numbers were even better in two seasons at Pitt: 160 catches for 2,265 yards and 21 touchdowns.

> 'I know he can make big plays. ... Not real physical, but he can make you miss and run away from you.'
>
> — DANIEL JEREMIAH, NFL Network draft analyst, on USC wide receiver Jordan Addison

Another intriguing prospect is Carter, the Georgia defensive tackle and All-Southeastern Conference honoree once projected by some talent evaluators to be the No. 1 overall selection.

Yet Carter's future is clouded by controversy and tragedy. He pleaded no contest in March to misdemeanor charges of reckless driving and racing in connection to a fatal crash in which Georgia football player Devin Willock and recruiting staffer Chandler LeCroy were killed Jan. 15. Police alleged LeCroy was driving an SUV that was racing Carter's SUV.

In a recent episode of HBO's "Real Sports with Bryant Gumbel," Carter was asked whether he believed the incident would affect his draft status.

"Yeah, I feel like it's gonna matter a little bit," Carter told the interviewer. "Because, you know, NFL teams look deep into your life. But it could've been something I did back in elementary [school]. You know, I'm pretty sure they'd know. So you know, this coming out at the time it did come out I'm pretty sure is going to affect a little bit."

Carter was a centerpiece of a defense that helped Georgia win back-to-back national titles, amassing 18½ tackles for loss and six sacks in his career — no easy feat playing in the middle.

If the reaction of Detroit Lions general manager Brad Holmes is indicative of the reception Carter is getting around the NFL, the Georgia standout might not be waiting long to hear his name called on draft night. The Lions have the sixth and 18th selections.

"Yeah, he came in and he did a nice job," Holmes told reporters. "Yeah, again, it's always case-by-case [evaluation]. [Carter] came in, we enjoyed our time with him, he did a nice job. I'll say even after he left our visit, I felt better on him."

HIGH SCHOOLS

It's a different perspective for Mater Dei players

Seven from baseball team have joined the ranks of umpiring for local youth leagues.

ERIC SONDHEIMER
ON HIGH SCHOOLS

At a time when there's an umpire shortage and the men and women doing the job are sometimes treated with disrespect and ridicule, seven teenagers from Santa Ana Mater Dei High have taken the plunge to put themselves on the line and get a feel for what it's like to be an adult.

They're umpiring youth baseball games in Orange County. Some get paid as much as $80 a game, but it's not the money that motivates them to take on the umpiring role for players ranging in age from 6 to 13.

"You don't even think about it," junior shortstop Brody Connors said. "You do it because you love the game. You get to see what you were like as a kid."

Ryan Iveson, a 6-foot-6 junior pitcher/outfielder, helped recruit his Mater Dei teammates to umpiring after a neighbor, former USC baseball player Tanner Eriksen, tried to help Costa Mesa Little League with a shortage of umpires.

"They know the game inside and out and are better than 99% of the dads out there," Eriksen said.

But would they have the calm, steady demeanor needed to deal with adults and kids questioning their calls?

"You learn to ignore negative comments they send your way," Iveson said.

The biggest learning curve for Iveson is how he comes to a game for a different purpose than being a fan or player.

"As an umpire, you don't care who wins or loses," he said. "You're there to watch and observe."

Eriksen said the teenagers have taken on their tasks with enthusiasm and professionalism.

"The full circle of the beauty has been special in terms of these kids giving back and seeing the game from a different perspective," Eriksen said.

They've become so respected that other leagues compete for their services on weekends, whether for league games or tournaments.

"Now I have to get in line," Eriksen said.

Connors said when he was a youth player, he used to like interacting with the umpires, and now he has fun talking to the players.

"You get to see the game from a different perspective," Connors said.

Former Mater Dei shortstop Ethan Hedges, now at USC, was an umpire last year. Eriksen brought out some of the youth players to watch Hedges play for the Trojans, and he waved to them in the bleachers, giving them a thrill.

So far, the challenge of making the right call and living with the reaction, good or bad, has not deterred any of the Mater Dei Seven.

"It's awesome," Connors said of umpiring. "Borderline calls, either way, you know there will be a little backlash. It's tough, especially borderline pitches."

Figuring out the strike zone for youth baseball is the biggest challenge for a plate umpire, while base umpires just need to focus and rely on their eyes and instincts for close calls. Most of all, it's about trying to do your best, knowing the rules and keeping your cool under pressure.

To have teenagers provide a service that others have rejected because of the sometimes brutal verbal treatment of spectators is always a good development. Then they can spread the word to their friends and play the role of peacemaker in their own games when others want to be disruptive about calls. They're learning mistakes can happen, but if the umpire is fully engaged with no reason to show bias, perhaps accepting the call can be tolerated.

The job is tough and challenging, so bravo to the Mater Dei Seven for giving umpiring a try.

NOAH MORRIS

RYAN IVESON, far right, helped recruit his teammates to umpire at the request of an ex-USC player.

PREP BASEBALL TOP 25

By Eric Sondheimer

Rk.	School (W-L)	Comment (last week's ranking)
1	SHERMAN OAKS N.D. (23-2)	Clinched the Mission League championship (1)
2	SANTA MARGARITA (19-6)	Won its first Trinity League title in 19 years (4)
3	HUNTINGTON BEACH (18-8)	Aidan Espinoza is having a big season (2)
4	CYPRESS (20-6)	Showdown with Pacifica to decide Empire League title (5)
5	CRESPI (15-5-3)	Three-game series against Harvard-Westlake (7)
6	AQUINAS (20-4)	Pitcher Owen Egan is gearing up for playoff run (8)
7	JSERRA (15-8)	Going for second place in the Trinity League (9)
8	ORANGE LUTHERAN (17-8-1)	Three-game series against JSerra (10)
9	GARDEN GROVE PACIFICA (20-2)	Time to see quality of the pitching (11)
10	HARVARD-WESTLAKE (18-7)	Duncan Marsten had 12 strikeouts in five innings (13)
11	CORONA (18-7)	Can clinch the Big VIII League title this week (12)
12	MATER DEI (14-10-1)	First playoff spot since 2017 is within reach (6)
13	GAHR (20-4-1)	Faces La Mirada for the league title (3)
14	LA SERNA (21-2)	Won the Del Rio League championship (14)
15	LA MIRADA (18-6)	Three-game series against Gahr (15)
16	BISHOP AMAT (19-3-1)	Outstanding pitching early in the season (NR)
17	BONITA (15-4)	Justin Santiago, Garrett Patterson are impressive pitching duo (18)
18	DAMIEN (19-4-2)	Ready to clinch the Baseline League title (NR)
19	VILLA PARK (16-10)	Trying to clinch the league title this week (19)
20	PALISADES (20-2)	Five games left in the regular season (22)
21	ETIWANDA (15-7)	Three-game series against Damien this week (17)
22	QUARTZ HILL (23-3)	Team is 12-0 in Golden League play (23)
23	CRESCENTA VALLEY (20-4)	Two-game series against Arcadia this week (24)
24	LONG BEACH POLY (18-3)	Moore League champion with 9-0 record (25)
25	SAN DIMAS (18-6)	Two-game series against Charter Oak (21)

Yabu brings new approach to Notre Dame

[**Yabu,** from D1]

passion for football, for life and for developing young men was so evident.

"Obviously he knows Xs and O's, but does this person want the challenges? Can he fight through roadblocks? We believe he can, and we are in it for the long haul with Evan."

(Disclaimer: I've known Yabu, 33, since he played on a youth football team with my son in 2003. He also played on a travel baseball team I coached, and in 2013 when he returned home from college, I handed him his first coaching gig — a Little League baseball team of 14-year-olds.)

Yabu began coaching football as an assistant at Thousand Oaks — where he had been most valuable player as a senior in 2007 — then at Moorpark College and Camarillo High before becoming the coach at Thousand Oaks in January 2020, two months before the COVID-19 pandemic hit.

The Lancers program was in shambles, having lost its previous 25 games. In its first game under Yabu, Thousand Oaks defeated crosstown rival Newbury Park with a last-minute goal-line stand.

Less than two years later, the turnaround was complete. Thousand Oaks went 10-0 during the regular season for the first time in school history and won its first league title in 21 years before falling in the first round of the Southern Section playoffs.

An even 100 new head football coaching jobs have come open this offseason at Southern California high schools, according to Chris Fore, who chronicles such things. Yabu said Notre Dame is the only one he would have considered.

Since accepting the offer while on his honeymoon in France, Yabu spends all day on the Sherman Oaks campus. He supervises early-morning weight training along with longtime Knights strength and conditioning coach Nick Garcia. He meets with players, is visible and available during lunch period and at basketball games, and hosts college coaches inquiring about Notre Dame's talent — UCLA assistant Jerry Neuheisel spent an hour in Yabu's office recently, the two cordially discussing a wide range of football-related topics.

Afternoons are often spent with the track team, which is coached by Yabu's predecessor Joe McNab, who was the football coach the last three years and an assistant under legendary coach Kevin Rooney for 40 years before that.

Except that Yabu isn't coaching track, he's running alongside athletes. At 5 feet 8 and 168 pounds, in terrific physical condition and sporting a *chonmage* hair bun that celebrates the Japanese heritage on his father's side, he could easily be mistaken from a distance for an elite teenage athlete.

Yabu already won over McNab, the easygoing counterpoint to Rooney's buttoned-down, unwavering intensity while leading Notre Dame to 316 victories, four Southern Section titles and 16 league titles since 1981.

"It's a change, that's for sure," McNab said. "Change can be good. When Kevin was hired, people here were up in arms because he was from St. Francis. People thought we were horrible. People hated us. So people should give Evan a chance. He's immersing himself into Notre Dame."

Yabu expresses reverence for the school's adherence to Catholic Holy Cross traditions, starting with the goal of educating hearts and minds. He met with Rooney, who is retired, and plans to spend time with Notre Dame President and chief executive Sam Lagana, who also is president of the John Wooden Award and is public address announcer at Rams games.

Yet make no mistake, Yabu already is introducing novel teaching methods and assembling a mostly young, innovative staff of assistants from outside the Notre Dame orbit.

"We focus a lot on spiritual health, the emotional quotient, proper rest, diet and nutrition," Yabu said. "We'll have every player talk in front of the entire team about something they are uncomfortable talking about — no football. It fosters speaking openly and listening with intent."

Before games, the Knights will meditate and clear their minds through breathing.

"They'll take that skill and reference it during games," Yabu said. "When they encounter adversity, step back, take a breath, and we're ready to go."

Yabu added to his staff Matthew Koman, a Team USA handball player who was director of football at the Mamba Sports Academy in Thousand Oaks and whose biography says he's "certified as a Holistic Lifestyle Practitioner, Peacemaker, Strength and Conditioning and Sports Performance Coach. His mission is to unite all people he encounters with peace and love."

Not all changes are touchy-feely. Notre Dame players will wear GPS trackers during practice to quantify hustle and let coaches know when players are dragging and need a break or when they need to be pushed to maximum effort.

Notre Dame competes in the Mission League, arguably among the toughest in California. Composed only of private schools, the league is notorious for players transferring in and out. Yabu possesses a deep knowledge of the Southland football landscape, making it unlikely that he will be fleeced when it comes to roster construction.

Several Mission League teams brought in new quarterbacks for 2023. Wyatt Becker, a sophomore starter at Notre Dame last season, transferred to Chatsworth Sierra Canyon days after Yabu was hired, a seeming setback for a new coach. Three weeks later, however, an equally prized quarterback, Steele Pizzella, transferred to Notre Dame from Simi Valley.

Another unconventional staff addition is director of technology and social media Ed Hill, 63, who also will serve as junior varsity offensive line coach. Hill, whose son Rob Hill is the Dodgers' director of minor league pitching, was on Yabu's staff at Thousand Oaks.

"Evan is a special coach; he has the 'it' factor," Hill said. "He knows technology. He gets in coaching mode, and it's a beautiful thing to see. He's super focused, super efficient, and he runs everywhere on the field."

Notre Dame isn't Yabu's first unfamiliar landscape. He played a year of professional football in Germany after graduating from Lane College, a historically Black school in Jackson, Tenn.

Despite being one of only three nonkickers on the roster who wasn't Black, Yabu became a team captain, started at slot receiver and also served as player-coach on the baseball team.

"I was definitely the only person on the team with Asian blood," he said. "Lane was the most impactful experience I've had. I learned to listen to people, to empathize and attempt to understand people that have had a different life than me."

How does that translate? To Yabu, it means representing every player.

"Coaches make a mistake when they only take interest in the really good players," he said. "Most guys aren't going to play college sports. This is it. They are still having a life experience. I try to form deep relationships with the guys who don't play at all. It's important."

Yabu and Moss, the athletic director, said they knew several players contemplated following Becker out the door in January. Notre Dame was 9-18 the last three seasons, and football currently ranks a distant third among major sports on campus: The boys' basketball team won the state Division 1 championship in March, and the baseball team is 23-2 and ranked No. 1 by The Times.

Can Yabu restore Notre Dame's winning culture the way he did at Thousand Oaks? Spring football begins in a week, he and his wife, Muirjani, will have their first child in June, and a challenging schedule awaits in the fall. The Mission League sets a high bar.

His varsity staff includes defensive coordinator Eddy McGilvra, who coached at College of the Canyons and trains NFL defensive linemen; offensive coordinator Jake Constantine, a star quarterback at Rice, Weber State, Ventura College and Camarillo High; receivers coach Richard Mullaney, who played at Alabama, Oregon State and the Alliance of American Football; longtime Notre Dame teacher and linebackers coach Mike Curiel; former Harvard-Westlake assistant D.J. Stephens; and former Oak Park assistant Taylor Espinoza.

Denver Broncos linebacker Alex Singleton, another Thousand Oaks product, is Yabu's close friend and helped develop Notre Dame's playbook this past winter. Last fall, when the Broncos played the Chargers at SoFi Stadium, Yabu took the entire Thousand Oaks team to the game. Singleton made 19 solo tackles — second most in a game in NFL history.

"The kids were fired up because Alex had been to tons of our practices and team meetings," Yabu said. "He's genuinely interested in knowing our players as people."

That appears to be Yabu's priority as well. If winning correlates with bonding, Notre Dame football might rebound the way its new coach bounces around the field: rapidly.

MEL MELCON Los Angeles Times

EVAN YABU, left, shows his Sherman Oaks Notre Dame High team an instructional video on weigh-training exercises. The new football coach has made key hires, implemented changes and immersed himself on campus.

Head coaching changes

There were at least 100 head coaching changes for high school football across Southern California (including San Diego Section). Here are some of the notable hires:

Camarillo: Nathan Anderson
Crespi: Brad Vonnahme
JSerra: Victor Santa Cruz
Mater Dei: Frank McManus
Monrovia: Jose Casagran
Norco: Dan Barlage
Notre Dame: Evan Yabu
Oxnard: Lonnie McCowan
Roosevelt (Eastvale): Chuck Chastain
Servite: Chris Reinert
Thousand Oaks: Ben McEnroe

NBA

Davis is no longer shy as go-to guy

The Lakers star says he has to 'embrace' his role as the team's top option on offense.

By Dan Woike

It's been insinuated throughout the season. It's been inferred since he was acquired. And, if you've heard it all, you might have caught Darvin Ham or LeBron James outright say it.

Since the early months of this marathon season, the Lakers coach and the NBA's all-time leading scorer and premier alpha player have anointed Anthony Davis as the team's No. 1 offensive option — the player they must get going and the one who, if all is going well, cannot be stopped.

It's long been the plan, bridging from the James era to the Davis era with one future Hall of Famer ceding some responsibility to a younger future Hall of Famer. Yet injuries and some inconsistencies have made that sometimes easier said than done. James' continued effectiveness, certainly, has factored into it as well, the Lakers at times having the luxury of a pair of go-to options.

With the Lakers set to play a pivotal Game 4 on Monday night in Los Angeles in a series they lead 2-1, Davis' position literally and figuratively in the middle of the Lakers' plans seems as important as ever.

Coming off a 31-point, 17-rebound effort Saturday night in Game 3, Davis has his fingerprints all over the series on both ends of the court, his successes leading to wins and his off game last week in Memphis leading to the Lakers' only loss in the first-round playoff series.

"You have to embrace it," Davis said.

Defensively, he has been stellar in the Lakers' system, spending most of the game defending a lesser offensive option to free him to roam and clean up plays.

Through three games, he has blocked 15 shots — nearly twice as many as New York Knicks center Mitchell Robinson's eight blocks through four games.

Davis has joined Tim Duncan, Hakeem Olajuwon and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar as the only players since 1973 to begin the playoffs with at least 65 points, 35 rebounds and 15 blocks in three games.

"I'm getting into a flow. I had a good rhythm game yesterday," Davis said after the team's film session Sunday. "It's all about, for me, just going out and playing as hard as I can. Obviously, it's the playoffs, so the intensity increases and your level of concentration and production has to increase — and that goes for me as well. Just trying to lock into our game plans, to my shots, staying focused at the line, the moves I make and everything like that staying balanced. Knowing that when you see a team a minimum of four times, they're going to throw a lot of different things at you. Especially when you get a lot of attention.

"So you got to be ready to adjust come playoff time, and I just try to make the right reads to stay aggressive."

The Lakers, of course, have other options. James has led them in scoring so far this postseason, and Rui Hachimura has been off-the-charts efficient off the bench while starting guards Austin Reaves and D'Angelo Russell have had moments when they have been the primary scorers.

Defensively, though, Davis is unmatched on the Lakers.

Whereas in the past Davis might have been assigned to defend Jaren Jackson Jr., the Lakers — and Memphis with Jackson, the defensive player of the year — have instead given their best defender freedom to roam and make plays.

"My theory of defense at this level is not what you take away, but it's what you're willing to live with," Ham said. "Having a roamer, you're able to be more aggressive. Guys are able to help. They know they have that built-in help. They can be more aggressive on the ball and compete harder."

Even on off nights, that's still the case — just as in Game 2 when Davis scored only 13 points but blocked five shots. For the Lakers to get close to where they believe they can go, Davis dominating on both ends is the fastest path there.

The Lakers will have to slow a No. 1 option in Ja Morant, who dominated in the fourth quarter of Game 3, and contend with Dillon Brooks, who won't be suspended after his flagrant foul two and ejection. Davis knows the Grizzlies will be getting ready to change their coverages after his big Game 3 to make it tougher on him and avoid giving the Lakers a chance to close out the series Wednesday in Memphis.

Still, there's comfort in knowing the Lakers have other options.

"It gives me a lot of confidence that our guys, our coaches, all of the team has enough confidence in me and are wanting me to be that guy to kind of lead the charge," Davis said. "And I was able to do that my first 6½ years in New Orleans being the No. 1 option and making playoff appearances, winning playoff games. But obviously it's different here as a Laker. Especially with playing alongside a guy like LeBron. And the good thing about us, we're two very selfless stars who just want to win, so yesterday was my night, tomorrow might be his.

"Our thing is as long as we get the win. But I feel very confident and am happy they're confident enough in me to kind of want me to take that No. 1 option."

James responds firmly on court

[**Plaschke,** from D1]
consistent answer for Anthony Davis, no consistent match for the Lakers' depth and, now, a giant fat lip applied to the reckless mouth of one overmatched Brooks.

While James claimed he wasn't intent on making a statement — "I've been doing this too long; I've made enough statements" — he nonetheless made a boldfaced one with 25 points, nine rebounds and five assists. Brooks, meanwhile, was so flummoxed, he missed 10 of 13 shots before being ejected in the first minute of the second half for swatting James in the groin.

It was a cheap shot consistent with the verbal sucker punches Brooks had hurled earlier in James' direction. The low blows occurred Wednesday night during Brooks' locker room interview after Memphis' victory in Game 2.

First, he called James "old."

Second, he said James has never impressed him, claiming: "I poke bears. I don't respect no one until they come and give me 40."

Third, he said James' skills were declining: "He's not at the same level as he was when he was on Cleveland, when he [was] winning championships in Miami. I wish I got to see that. You know what I mean? It would have been a harder task."

Understand that nothing irritates James more than chatter about his age. He is a 38-year-old with the body of a player much younger. He reportedly spends more than $1 million a year to keep himself fit. He is quick to lash back at the perception that he is slowly losing his greatness. Four years ago, he even came up with a hashtag #WashedKing to deride critics who would challenge him.

One can easily imagine he was reasonably peeved at Brooks' comments. This was confirmed when he cut Friday's media session short when asked about it.

"I don't want to talk much more. Tomorrow is going to be a great game," James said. "I'm not here for the bulls—. I'm ready to play, and that's it. All right?

No argument here. He then took the court Saturday and, as promised, proceeded to passionately separate himself from all traces of the B.S.

The crowd set the tone by loudly cheering each of Brooks' misses during pregame warmups, then, once the game started, booing him every time he touched the ball. They threw in the occasional "Brooks you suck" chant, making the atmosphere ripe for James to respond.

No statements? Decide for yourself.

Less than 30 seconds into the game, James soared over Brooks for a runner. Then he found Austin Reaves for a layup. Then he hit a fadeaway jumper. In the first two minutes, James already had four points, two rebounds and one assist, and the arena was rocking with ferocious delight.

As for Brooks? He missed his first five shots, didn't score his first basket until midway through the second quarter, and generally spent his brief time on the court jacking up silly shots and playing distracted defense.

The Lakers fed off the emotion seeping from the first full-house home playoff crowd in 10 years. They continued to hold off the Grizzlies even as Ja Morant was scoring 22 straight points in the fourth quarter and cutting the lead to nine. Reaves made a couple of big shots, D'Angelo Russell made a big shot and Davis — with 31 points and 17 rebounds — stayed up long enough to make sure the Lakers never stumbled.

"When you get out there and you feel the energy and things are going the way we want them to go with our crowd ... it's beautiful," Reaves said.

James, meanwhile, continued to dazzle long after Brooks disappeared, wowing the screeching fans at one point with a follow-up dunk and a reverse dunk in a span of a couple of minutes.

Then, afterward, he predictably went dull, claiming the night wasn't about him vs. Brooks.

"I don't really get caught up in any comments like that," James said, adding, "At the end of the day, my focus is to my teammates and us trying to figure out a way how we can beat the Memphis Grizzlies, not how I can try to beat an individual on their team. If anybody knows me, they should know that's what I've always been about."

Yet he was seen engaged in a fervent pregame conversation with Brooks, and, four hours later, near the end of his postgame news conference, he acknowledged he was fighting the urge to publicly fire back.

"This is not my first rodeo. I've had this throughout my career with certain individuals," he said. "It's easy. It's literally easy if you want to ... I'm not going to do this. I'm not going to do this."

Oh, but he had already done this, time and again, in a game that revealed a new and deeper layer of connection between a city and its global superstar.

After five years of mostly lukewarm affection, it became clear Saturday that L.A. has James' back.

The night ended with Brooks being approached in the Grizzlies' locker room by ESPN's Tim MacMahon with an interview request.

"I ain't talking," Brooks told MacMahon.

Enough said.

Brynn Anderson Associated Press

CELTICS FORWARD Jayson Tatum scores two of his 31 points, helping Boston beat Atlanta 129-121 to take a 3-1 lead. The series heads back to Boston for Game 5.

PLAYOFF ROUNDUP

Warriors tie series in thriller

Associated Press

Stephen Curry scored 32 points but gave Sacramento a late chance when he called a timeout Golden State didn't have, and the defending champion Warriors held on to beat the visiting Kings 126-125 on Sunday when Harrison Barnes missed a three-pointer at the buzzer, evening their playoff series at two games apiece.

"I ain't gonna lie, I thought it was the smartest play in the world," Curry said of the timeout. "When I grabbed the ball and turned around and saw the trap, realized there was no real outlets instead of turning it over, it's kind of the heady play, but it turned out not to be. I looked over at the bench and everyone was shaking their head, so it was an unfortunate situation in that respect."

De'Aaron Fox had 38 points, nine rebounds and five assists for Sacramento. His three-pointer with 28.7 seconds left pulled the Kings to within one, and then Curry missed a 16-foot jumper on the other end and Keegan Murray corralled the rebound. With Curry and Draymond Green defending, Fox dished to former Warrior Barnes for the potential game-winning three-pointer, which hit the back of the rim.

Game 5 in the best-of-seven series is Wednesday night at Sacramento.

Boston 129, at Atlanta 121: Jaylen Brown and Jayson Tatum each scored 31 points, and the Celtics led nearly the entire way to take a 3-1 series lead.

Tre Young had another big game for the Hawks with 35 points. De'Andre Hunter chipped in with 27 points, and DeJounte Murray had 23.

The Celtics can deliver the clincher Tuesday night when the series returns to Boston for Game 5.

at New York 102, Cleveland 93: Jalen Brunson scored 29 points, RJ Barrett had 26, and the Knicks took a 3-1 lead over the Cavaliers in their first-round series.

Josh Hart moved into the starting lineup and added 19 points and seven rebounds for New York, which would reach the second round for the first time since 2013 if it takes this series.

Darius Garland had 23 points and 10 assists for the Cavaliers, and Jarrett Allen and Caris LeVert each scored 14. Game 5 is Wednesday in Cleveland.

at Minnesota 114, Denver 108 (OT): Anthony Edwards scored 34 points, Karl-Anthony Towns had 17 points and 11 rebounds, and the Timberwolves avoided elimination.

Nikola Jokic tied a playoff career high with 43 points and added 11 rebounds and six assists for the Nuggets, who were seeking a four-game sweep.

Rudy Gobert added 14 points and 15 rebounds for Minnesota, which held on after Denver scored the final 12 points of regulation.

Game 5 is Tuesday in Denver.

PLAYOFF SCHEDULE
FIRST ROUND

WESTERN CONFERENCE

1 Denver vs. 8 Minnesota
Nuggets lead series 3-1

Gm 1	Denver 109, Minnesota 80
Gm 2	Denver 122, Minnesota 113
Gm 3	Denver 120, Minnesota 111
Gm 4	Minn. 114, Denver 108 (OT)
Gm 5	Tuesday at Denver, 6
Gm 6	Thurs. at Minnesota, TBD*
Gm 7	Sat. at Denver, TBD*

2 Memphis vs. 7 LAKERS
Lakers lead series 2-1

Gm 1	LAKERS 128, Memphis 112
Gm 2	Memphis 103, LAKERS 93
Gm 3	LAKERS 111, Memphis 101
Gm 4	Today at LAKERS, 7
Gm 5	Wed. at Memphis, 4:30
Gm 6	Friday at LAKERS, TBD*
Gm 7	Sunday at Memphis, TBD*

3 Sacramento vs. 6 Golden State
Series tied 2-2

Gm 1	Sacramento 126, G.S. 123
Gm 2	Sacramento 114, G.S. 106
Gm 3	G.S. 114, Sacramento 97
Gm 4	G.S. 126, Sacramento 125
Gm 5	Wed. at Sac., 7
Gm 6	Friday at G.S., TBD
Gm 7	Sunday at Sac., TBD*

4 Phoenix vs. 5 CLIPPERS
Suns lead series 3-1

Gm 1	CLIPPERS 115, Phoenix 110
Gm 2	Phnx. 123, CLIPPERS 109
Gm 3	Phoenix 129, CLIPPERS 124
Gm 4	Phnx. 112, CLIPPERS 100
Gm 5	Tuesday at Phoenix, 7
Gm 6	Thurs. at CLIPPERS, TBD*
Gm 7	Sat. at Phoenix, TBD*

EASTERN CONFERENCE

1 Milwaukee vs. 8 Miami
Heat lead series 2-1

Gm 1	Miami 130, Milwaukee 117
Gm 2	Milwaukee 138, Miami 122
Gm 3	Miami 121, Milwaukee 99
Gm 4	Today at Miami, 4:30
Gm 5	Wed. at Milwaukee, 6:30
Gm 6	Friday at Miami, TBD*
Gm 7	Sunday at Milwaukee, TBD*

2 Boston vs. 7 Atlanta
Celtics lead series 3-1

Gm 1	Boston 112, Atlanta 99
Gm 2	Boston 119, Atlanta 106
Gm 3	Atlanta 130, Boston 122
Gm 4	Boston 129, Atlanta 121
Gm 5	Tuesday at Boston, 4:30
Gm 6	Thursday at Atlanta, TBD*
Gm 7	Saturday at Boston, TBD*

3 Philadelphia vs. 6 Brooklyn
76ers win series 4-0

Gm 1	Phila. 121, Brooklyn 101
Gm 2	Phila. 96, Brooklyn 84
Gm 3	Phila. 102, Brooklyn 97
Gm 4	Phila. 96, Brooklyn 88

4 Cleveland vs. 5 New York
Knicks lead series 3-1

Gm 1	New York 101, Cleveland 97
Gm 2	Cleveland 107, New York 90
Gm 3	New York 99, Cleveland 79
Gm 4	New York 102, Cleveland 93
Gm 5	Wed. at Cleveland, 4
Gm 6	Friday at New York, TBD*
Gm 7	Sunday at Cleveland, TBD*

* if necessary

All times PDT, p.m. except noted

PLAYOFF BOX SCORES

Warriors 126, Kings 125

SACRAMENTO

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Barnes	30	3-11	2-2	0-3	1	2	9
Murray	32	9-13	0-0	2-7	1	3	23
Sabonis	37	7-13	0-0	2-7	8	4	14
Fox	39	14-31	6-8	3-9	5	4	38
Huerter	21	1-4	0-0	0-3	2	1	2
Monk	28	5-14	4-4	0-5	5	2	16
Mitchell	27	5-8	1-1	1-1	1	1	12
Lyles	11	2-5	0-1	2-4	2	1	5
Len	10	2-3	2-2	2-5	0	3	6
Edwards	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Totals	**48-102**	**15-18**	**12-44**	**25**	**21**	**125**	

Shooting: Field goals, 47.1%; free throws, 83.3%
Three-point goals: 14-35 (Murray 5-7, Fox 4-11, Monk 2-5, Mitchell 1-2, Lyles 1-3, Barnes 1-6, Huerter 0-1). Team Rebounds: 9. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 3 (Sabonis 2, Huerter). Turnovers: 10 (Fox 3, Monk 3, Sabonis 2, Len, Mitchell). Steals: 5 (Monk 2, Fox, Mitchell, Sabonis). Technical Fouls: Fox, 5:43 first.

GOLDEN STATE

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Thompson	39	9-15	4-4	0-2	3	1	26
Wiggins	37	7-12	3-4	2-8	3	3	18
Looney	32	4-5	0-0	2-14	6	4	8
Curry	42	11-22	5-5	0-5	4	3	32
Poole	26	8-15	4-5	0-2	4	2	22
D.Green	30	3-14	6-6	4-10	7	4	12
DiVincenzo	16	1-3	0-0	0-2	4	1	3
Payton II	7	1-3	0-0	0-0	0	0	2
Moody	5	1-1	0-0	0-0	0	1	3
Kuminga	2	0-0	0-0	0-1	0	0	0
Totals	**45-90**	**22-24**	**8-44**	**31**	**19**	**126**	

Shooting: Field goals, 50.0%; free throws, 91.7%
Three-point goals: 14-34 (Curry 5-11, Thompson 4-9, Poole 2-6, Moody 1-1, DiVincenzo 1-2, Wiggins 1-2, Payton II 0-1, D.Green 0-2). Team Rebounds: 7. Team Turnovers: 1. Blocked Shots: 6 (Wiggins 4, D.Green, Looney). Turnovers: 11 (Wiggins 3, Looney 2, Poole 2, Thompson 2, Curry, D.Green). Steals: 8 (Wiggins 2, Curry, D.Green, DiVincenzo, Looney, Poole, Thompson). Technical Fouls: Green, 5:43 first

Sacramento	**32**	**37**	**23**	**33—125**
Golden State	**31**	**34**	**37**	**24—126**

A—18,064. T—2:31.

Celtics 129, Hawks 121

BOSTON

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Brown	42	12-22	4-5	1-4	3	4	31
Tatum	38	8-20	11-12	0-7	4	2	31
Horford	34	0-2	0-0	3-11	5	3	0
Smart	29	8-14	0-0	2-4	4	4	19
White	31	7-14	0-0	0-2	2	3	18
Williams III	28	4-5	5-6	3-15	3	5	13
Brogdon	22	6-10	1-2	0-4	4	1	14
Hauser	9	1-2	0-0	0-2	0	1	3
Muscala	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Williams	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Pritchard	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Totals	**46-89**	**21-25**	**9-49**	**25**	**23**	**129**	

Shooting: Field goals, 51.7%; free throws, 84.0%
Three-point goals: 16-40 (White 4-9, Tatum 4-13, Brown 3-4, Smart 3-8, Brogdon 1-2, Hauser 1-2, Horford 0-2). Team Rebounds: 4. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 5 (Tatum 3, Williams III 2). Turnovers: 16 (Brogdon 3, Tatum 3, Brown 2, Horford 2, Smart 2, White 2, Williams III 2). Steals: 4 (Horford 2, Williams III 2). Technical Fouls: None.

ATLANTA

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Collins	24	1-9	2-2	0-5	1	2	5
Hunter	40	11-17	2-2	2-7	2	3	27
Capela	29	3-6	4-4	3-7	0	2	10
Murray	39	9-20	1-1	2-9	6	4	23
Young	40	11-26	9-11	0-3	15	2	35
Bey	21	2-7	1-1	1-3	0	0	5
Bogdanovic	19	3-8	0-0	0-2	0	6	8
Okongwu	18	2-4	2-3	3-4	0	5	6
Johnson	5	1-1	0-0	0-2	1	0	2
Totals	**43-98**	**21-24**	**11-42**	**25**	**24**	**121**	

Shooting: Field goals, 43.9%; free throws, 87.5%
Three-point goals: 14-37 (Murray 4-8, Young 4-10, Hunter 3-6, Bogdanovic 2-5, Collins 1-5, Bey 0-3). Team Rebounds: 10. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 4 (Capela, Collins, Hunter, Murray). Turnovers: 12 (Capela 3, Murray 3, Okongwu 3, Collins, Hunter, Young). Steals: 8 (Capela 2, Young 2, Hunter, Johnson, Murray, Okongwu). Technical Fouls: None.

Boston	**35**	**30**	**27**	**37—129**
Atlanta	**25**	**28**	**34**	**34—121**

A—19,144. T—2:28.

Knicks 102, Cavaliers 93

CLEVELAND

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
LeVert	38	4-10	4-5	2-9	2	2	14
Mobley	35	5-8	2-2	3-7	3	6	12
Allen	40	7-11	0-0	1-4	0	1	14
Garland	36	9-16	3-3	0-2	10	4	23
Mitchell	41	5-18	1-2	0-4	5	4	11
Osman	21	2-5	5-7	0-5	2	3	10
Okoro	17	4-9	0-0	0-0	0	1	9
Rubio	6	0-0	0-0	1-2	2	1	0
Green	3	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	1	0
Totals	**36-77**	**15-19**	**7-33**	**24**	**23**	**93**	

Shooting: Field goals, 46.8%; free throws, 78.9%
Three-point goals: 6-23 (Garland 2-4, LeVert 2-6, Osman 1-4, Okoro 1-5, Mitchell 0-4). Team Rebounds: 9. Team Turnovers: 1. Blocked Shots: 5 (Mobley 2, Okoro 2, LeVert). Turnovers: 12 (Mitchell 6, Mobley 2, Allen, LeVert, Osman, Rubio). Steals: 3 (Allen, LeVert, Mitchell). Technical Fouls: None.

NEW YORK

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Barrett	37	9-18	8-13	0-2	1	2	26
Randle	27	3-10	1-3	0-2	1	1	7
Robinson	27	5-7	2-3	7-11	1	2	12
Brunson	42	11-22	2-2	2-6	6	1	29
Hart	39	7-16	4-5	2-7	2	2	19
Hartenstein	20	0-1	1-2	1-8	2	5	1
Toppin	20	2-5	0-0	5-8	1	1	5
Quickley	19	0-4	0-0	0-2	1	1	0
McBride	5	1-1	0-0	0-1	0	0	3
Totals	**38-84**	**18-28**	**17-47**	**15**	**15**	**102**	

Shooting: Field goals, 45.2%; free throws, 64.3%
Three-point goals: 8-29 (Brunson 5-9, McBride 1-1, Toppin 1-3, Hart 1-4, Quickley 0-2, Randle 0-4, Barrett 0-6). Team Rebounds: 12. Team Turnovers: 4. Blocked Shots: 7 (Hartenstein 2, Robinson 2, Barrett, Brunson, Randle). Turnovers: 10 (Brunson 4, Hart 3, Hartenstein 2, Randle). Steals: 5 (Hart 2, Hartenstein 2, Brunson). Technical Fouls: None.

Cleveland	**23**	**22**	**26**	**22— 93**
New York	**30**	**24**	**19**	**29—102**

A—19,812. T—2:22.

Timberwolves 114, Nuggets 108, OT

DENVER

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Gordon	42	6-12	1-1	5-7	3	6	14
Porter Jr.	41	6-12	1-2	0-5	2	2	15
Jokic	39	15-26	8-12	2-11	6	3	43
Caldwell-Pope	39	2-7	0-0	0-3	2	2	5
Murray	40	8-21	1-1	1-7	5	1	19
Brown	25	5-12	0-0	1-6	0	3	11
Green	18	0-3	0-0	0-2	2	4	0
Braun	13	0-2	0-0	1-2	1	2	0
Jordan	4	0-0	1-2	0-4	0	0	1
Totals	**42-95**	**12-18**	**10-47**	**21**	**23**	**108**	

Shooting: Field goals, 44.2%; free throws, 66.7%
Three-point goals: 12-35 (Jokic 5-8, Porter Jr. 2-6, Murray 2-7, Gordon 1-3, Brown 1-4, Caldwell-Pope 1-4, Braun 0-1, Green 0-2). Team Rebounds: 12. Team Turnovers: 1. Blocked Shots: 5 (Porter Jr. 2, Caldwell-Pope, Gordon, Green). Turnovers: 11 (Jokic 4, Murray 3, Brown, Caldwell-Pope, Gordon, Green). Steals: 6 (Brown 2, Caldwell-Pope 2, Jokic 2). Technical Fouls: None.

MINNESOTA

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Alexndr-Wlker	37	3-7	0-0	1-4	1	1	8
Towns	36	5-9	7-10	2-11	2	6	17
Gobert	39	7-14	0-0	5-15	1	4	14
Conley	42	7-13	2-2	0-2	8	4	19
Edwards	45	12-27	5-6	1-6	5	1	34
Prince	23	1-8	3-4	2-3	0	0	6
Anderson	22	5-7	0-0	0-6	5	3	11
Rivers	10	2-3	0-0	0-1	0	0	5
McLaughlin	3	0-1	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Nowell	3	0-4	0-0	3-3	0	0	0
Totals	**42-93**	**17-22**	**14-51**	**23**	**19**	**114**	

Shooting: Field goals, 45.2%; free throws, 77.3%
Three-point goals: 13-34 (Edwards 5-12, Conley 3-7, Alexander-Walker 2-5, Anderson 1-2, Rivers 1-2, Prince 1-3, McLaughlin 0-1, Towns 0-2). Team Rebounds: 5. Team Turnovers: 1. Blocked Shots: 7 (Edwards 3, Gobert 2, Anderson, Towns). Turnovers: 11 (Alexander-Walker 2, Anderson 2, Edwards 2, Towns 2, Conley, Gobert, Prince). Steals: 6 (Anderson 2, Edwards 2, Alexander-Walker, Towns). Technical Fouls: None.

Denver	**22**	**30**	**22**	**12—108**
Minnesota	**23**	**25**	**32**	**16—114**

A—18,978. T—2:44.

LEADERS

Through Saturday

PLAYOFF SCORING

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Booker, PHO	4	52	25	139	34.8
Edwards, MIN	3	30	25	95	31.7
Curry, GS	3	32	15	94	31.3
Butler, MIA	3	35	14	90	30.0
Fox, SAC	3	32	15	88	29.3
Durant, PHO	4	34	36	111	27.8
Tatum, BOS	3	31	9	83	27.7
Murray, DEN	3	29	13	82	27.3
Murray, ATL	3	32	5	78	26.0
Westbrook, CLIPPERS	4	40	15	104	26.0

Angel City loses rivalry battle, but future remains bright

Youngster Thompson battles Morgan for first time, and veteran shows she still has it.

SAN DIEGO 2
ANGEL CITY 0

By Kevin Baxter

The future of U.S. women's soccer met the sport's present Sunday in a late-afternoon matinee at BMO Stadium. And Alex Morgan, the sport's current leading lady, showed she's not ready to step aside just yet, helping the San Diego Wave to a 2-0 win over Angel City and teenager Alyssa Thompson, her possible heir apparent.

The goals, both from second-half substitutes, came five minutes apart late in the second half, the first when Sofia Jakobsson converted a Christen Westphal pass into a score at the end of a counterattack, and the second when Makenzy Doniak deflected a shot from distance off Angel City defender Sarah Gorden.

Morgan got the assist on the second goal, shutting the door on Angel City's first home loss to its Southern California rival. But the day wasn't a complete loss for Angel City because it marked the NWSL return of two-time world champion Julie Ertz after a two-year break in which she gave birth to her first child.

The game, played in front of a sellout crowd of 22,000, was the first between Morgan, an 11-year NWSL veteran, and Thompson, who was making her third league start, though Thompson hardly needed an introduction.

The two played on the national team earlier this month, and prominent in the decor of Thompson's childhood bedroom was a poster of the 2015 U.S. national team, meaning she woke every morning to Morgan's smiling face.

That visage has become the face of U.S. Soccer, but Morgan is now 33 and a mother.

She's still playing some of the best soccer of her career, but this summer's World Cup could be her last. And while Thompson, 18, is too young to be Morgan's direct successor, she's too good to be kept out of the conversation for long.

Carli Lloyd, a two-time world player of the year and now an NWSL analyst, said such talk is not only premature but possibly harmful.

"Many times, the media and U.S. Soccer try to pick a player or two who are the 'face' of the team, but sometimes that can hurt a player if they aren't able to live up to the hype," she said.

"Alyssa definitely has the qualities to make the WNT, but it may be in Alyssa and the soccer world's best interest to let Alyssa be an 18-year-old pro player and enjoy her journey."

Speaking of journeys, Ertz, 31, completed her comeback with a solid 72-minute performance less than a week after joining Angel City on a free-agent contract.

"I'm so grateful to be here," said Ertz, who trained twice this week. "I'm having so much fun playing with them. Obviously, today is not the scoreline that we want, so it sounds weird, but I did have so much fun tonight."

Sunday's match was the first of four scheduled meetings between Angel City (1-2-1) and the Wave (3-1-0), second-year clubs whose rivalry has already grown into one of the best in league.

Both sides weathered a frustrating opening hour.

Morgan's best chance came in the 36th minute when the ball found her edge of the box, but she stumbled and sent a right-footed shot well over the crossbar.

Three minutes later, Thompson, who was electric at times, delivered a beautiful cross from the left wing to a wide-open Katie Johnson in the center of the penalty area, but Johnson couldn't control the ball and failed to get off a shot.

Thompson also set up Ertz with a deft chip at the near post early in the second half that Ertz couldn't get a boot on it, then moments later delivered a shot from nearly the same spot was snagged at the post by Wave keeper Kailen Sheridan.

That save proved big because minutes later, Jakobsson, a Swedish international, put the Wave ahead to stay with her first goal of the season.

And while San Diego coach Casey Stoney welcomed the three points and her team's second shutout in as many games, it was the return of Ertz, the continued brilliance of Morgan and the emergence of Thompson that dominated the postgame news conference.

"The future of American soccer," she said "is very, very bright."

NWSL standings

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Portland	3	0	1	10	11	2
OL Reign	3	1	0	9	8	3
San Diego	3	1	0	9	8	4
Gotham FC	3	1	0	9	5	3
Washington	2	2	2	8	5	3
Houston	1	0	3	6	3	2
ANGEL CITY	1	2	1	4	5	7
Louisville	0	1	3	3	4	6
Chicago	1	3	0	3	9	12
North Carolina	1	3	0	3	3	6
Kansas City	1	3	0	3	5	9
Orlando	0	4	0	0	1	10

SUNDAY'S RESULTS
San Diego 2, ANGEL CITY 0
Kansas City 2, Orlando 0
FRIDAY'S MATCH
North Carolina at Houston

NHL PLAYOFF ROUNDUP

Hurricanes end postseason road losing streak with rout

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Seth Jarvis scored twice, and the Carolina Hurricanes stopped an eight-game playoff road losing streak with a 5-2 victory over host New York on Sunday, pushing the Islanders to the brink of elimination.

Sebastian Aho added a goal and two assists and Antti Raanta made 27 saves in helping Carolina win on the road in the playoffs for the first time since the second round in 2021.

"It's nice to win one not on home ice," Jarvis said. "It only helps us. It's not good when you can't win on the road and we win at home."

Aho's goal was his 20th in the postseason with the Hurricanes, breaking the franchise record he shared with Eric Staal.

Dallas 3, at Minnesota 2: Tyler Seguin scored two power-play goals and Jake Oettinger made 33 saves in a brilliant show in his home state to help the Stars bounce back from a lopsided loss to even the series at 2-2.

Frederick Gaudreau pulled the Wild to within 3-2 with 1:20 to go, but Oettinger finished off another golden playoff performance by getting a glove on Marcus Johansson's close-range slap shot with 12 seconds left.

Boston 6, at Florida 2: Taylor Hall and Jake DeBrusk each scored twice and Linus Ullmark stopped 41 shots as the Bruins took a 3-1 series lead with a second straight victory on the Panthers' ice.

Ullmark left the game with 3:11 left after he drew a misconduct penalty — he wanted to fight Matthew Tkachuk in a scrum.

"I love it," Boston coach Jim Montgomery said of his goalie. "He's all in."

Bruins 6, Panthers 2

Boston	1	1	4	6
Florida	0	1	1	2

FIRST PERIOD: 1. Bos., Marchand 3 (Bertuzzi, Zacha), 9:45 (pp). **Penalties**—White, FLA (Cross Checking), 9:11. White, FLA (Misconduct), 9:11. Lomberg, FLA (Delay of Game), 10:37. Zacha, BOS (Roughing), 15:33. Tkachuk, FLA (Cross Checking), 20:00.

SECOND PERIOD: 2. Bos., DeBrusk 2 (Orlov, Hall), 1:52 (pp). 3. Fla., Tkachuk 2 (Montour, Verhaeghe), 16:00. **Penalty**—Coyle, BOS (Hooking), 4:07.

THIRD PERIOD: 4. Bos., Bertuzzi 2 (Foligno, Carlo), 2:26. 5. Fla., Bennett 2 (Tkachuk, Montour), 6:11 (pp). 6. Bos., DeBrusk 3 (Zacha, Hall), 8:05. 7. Bos., Hall 3 (Nosek, Ullmark), 16:24. 8. Bos., Hall 4, 19:31. **Penalties**—Foligno, BOS (Tripping), 4:45. Tkachuk, FLA (Slashing), 11:02. McAvoy, BOS (Slashing), 11:02. Montour, FLA (Interference), 12:02. Bos. bench, served by Ullmark (Roughing), 16:49. Forbort, BOS (Fighting), 16:49. Montour, FLA (Fighting), 16:49. Bos. bench, served by Hall (Misconduct), 16:49. McAvoy, BOS (Misconduct), 16:49. Bennett, FLA (Misconduct), 16:49. Tkachuk, FLA (Misconduct), 16:49.

SHOTS ON GOAL: Bos. 12-8-11—31. Fla. 15-12-19—46. Power-play conversions—Bos. 2 of 4. Fla. 1 of 4.

GOALIES: Bos., Swayman 0-0-0 (1 shots-1 saves), Bos., Ullmark 3-1-0 (45-41). Fla., Bobrovsky 0-1-0 (31-25). T—2:47.

Hurricanes 5, Islanders 2

Carolina	1	2	2	5
N.Y. Islanders	0	0	2	2

FIRST PERIOD: 1. Car., Jarvis 1 (Noesen, Burns), 4:05 (pp). **Penalties**—Parise, N.Y.I (Interference), 2:41. Pulock, N.Y.I (Boarding), 3:30. Stastny, CAR (Slashing), 5:10. Kotkaniemi, CAR (Roughing), 8:15. Burns, CAR (Cross Checking), 8:43. Barzal, N.Y.I (Unsportsmanlike Conduct), 8:43. Martin, N.Y.I (Roughing), 20:00.

SECOND PERIOD: 2. Car., Necas 1 (Aho, Noesen), 1:15 (pp). 3. Car., Aho 2 (MacEachern), 13:30. **Penalties**—Nelson, N.Y.I (Interference), 6:02. MacEachern, CAR (Holding), 16:46.

THIRD PERIOD: 4. Car., Jarvis 2 (Aho, Pesce), 1:20. 5. N.Y. Islanders, Pelech 1 (Nelson), 3:14. 6. Car., MacEachern 1 (Skjei), 14:01. 7. N.Y. Islanders, Horvat 1 (Mayfield), 17:57 (sh). **Penalties**—Clutterbuck, N.Y.I (Misconduct), 16:34. N.Y. Islanders bench, served by Fasching (Roughing), 16:34. N.Y. Islanders bench, served by Martin (Roughing), 19:43. MacEachern, CAR (Roughing), 19:43.

SHOTS ON GOAL: Car. 7-14-10—31. N.Y. Islanders 9-9-11—29. Power-play conversions—Car. 2 of 5. N.Y. Islanders 0 of 3.

GOALIES: Car., Raanta 3-1-0 (29 shots-27 saves). N.Y. Islanders, Sorokin 1-3-0 (31-24). Att—17,255 (17,113). T—2:36.

Stars 3, Wild 2

Dallas	0	1	2	3
Minnesota	0	0	2	2

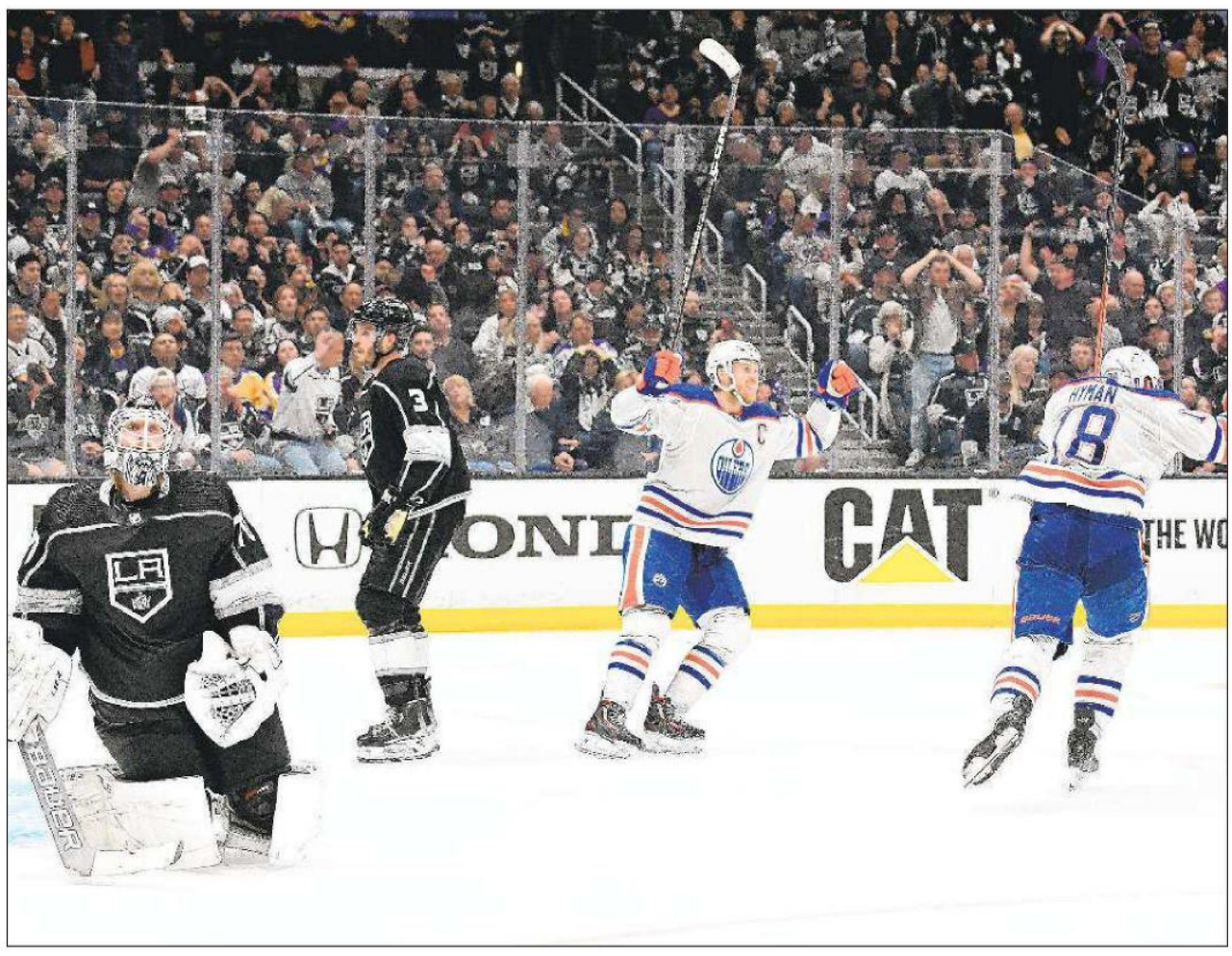
FIRST PERIOD: Scoring—None. **Penalties**—None.

SECOND PERIOD: 1. Dal., Seguin 2 (Hintz, Robertson), 15:42 (pp). **Penalties**—Steel, MIN (High Sticking), 1:46. Heiskanen, DAL (Cross Checking), 12:03. Foligno, MIN (Interference), 14:53. Harley, DAL (Roughing), 18:21.

THIRD PERIOD: 2. Dal., Dadonov 3 (Hintz, Lindell), 3:05. 3. Min., Klingberg 1 (Zuccarello, Hartman), 5:58. 4. Dal., Seguin 3 (Benn, Hintz), 16:29 (pp). 5. Min., Gaudreau 2 (Klingberg, Boldy), 18:40 (pp). **Penalties**—Dadonov, DAL (Interference), 0:57. Foligno, MIN (Tripping), 15:11. Hartman, MIN (Misconduct), 16:29. Hakanpaa, DAL (Tripping), 18:27.

SHOTS ON GOAL: Dal. 8-11-5—24. Min. 9-14-12—35. Power-play conversions—Dal. 2 of 3. Min. 1 of 4.

GOALIES: Dal., Oettinger 2-2-0 (35 shots-33 saves). Min., Gustavsson 2-1-0 (24-21). Att—19,331 (18,064). T—2:28.



Photographs by Wally Skalij Los Angeles Times

THE OILERS erupt in celebration as goalie Joonas Korpisalo watches after Zach Hyman's goal midway through overtime, the third extra session of the series, gave Edmonton a pivotal win and showed its resilience.

Kings squander three-goal lead and come up short in overtime

[**Elliott,** from D1]
make you pay."

There was no time for the Kings to moan about what might have been. "The series is tied 2-2, so we can be frustrated tonight, but tomorrow's a new day and we gotta get ready for Game 5. That's how it is," Kopitar said.

"Yeah, the first period was obviously really good, the second period was not good, so there's no secret to that. We'll have to correct that going forward."

The Kings had said Sunday morning that they believed they had another gear to reach, another level they could attain, after they won two of the first three games of the series. They appeared to have gotten there in the first period Sunday, an effort that triggered roars of sheer joy from their loyal fan base.

But the Oilers had other ideas. They held a meeting after the first period, deciding to switch goaltenders — from Stuart Skinner to former King Jack Campbell — and their attitude.

"We've been there before and we've got lots of time" was the theme, according to Leon Draisaitl, who continued his mastery of the Kings by scoring his fourth and fifth goals of the series.

"You want to put a period like that behind yourself and not dwell on it. Come on strong and give ourselves a chance."

The Oilers gave themselves not just a chance but a pivotal win. "In that moment, it was massive for our group," Draisaitl said. "They're not an easy team to come back against. I thought we came in waves in the second period and put ourselves back in it."

The return of Kevin Fiala, recovered from an injury that had kept him out of the lineup since April 1, instantly energized the Kings' offense. He had two assists in the first period, earning the first when his backhander was stopped by Skinner, who couldn't control the rebound and left the puck loose for a net-crashing Gabe Vilardi at 9:25.

Viktor Arvidsson extended the Kings' lead to 2-0 at 16:48. After taking a slick pass from Thousand Oaks native Trevor Moore — who had scored the overtime winner in Game 3 — Arvidsson pivoted around Edmonton defenseman Vincent Desharnais and scored on a blistering shot from the left circle. Edmonton defenseman Cody Ceci was serving a holding penalty when the Kings made it 3-0, at 18:11. Kopitar finished it off by faking Skinner out of his skates and scoring on a backhander, his second goal of the series.

The Oilers roared back in the second period, starting when defenseman Evan Bouchard slapped a long shot through a crowd and past Korpisalo during an Edmonton power play, at 4:55 of the period. At 9:41, after Connor McDavid had upended Kings defenseman Drew Doughty and took him out of the play on a move that could have been called a penalty, McDavid fed Draisaitl in the slot and the German-born forward scored his fourth goal of the series.

Fans became riled up over a tripping penalty called against Fiala on a play on which Fiala got his stick between Draisaitl's skates but Draisaitl didn't immediately go down. Draisaitl cashed in from the inside edge of the left circle at 19:49.

Roy put the Kings ahead again at 4:28 of the third, trailing the play and slotting home a backhander after a fine pass from Arvidsson, but Kane beat Korpisalo to the goalie's glove side to tie the score at 16:58.

So near and yet still so very far from their first triumphant playoff series since they won the Cup in 2014 for the second time in three seasons. "I don't think they were any better than us in OT," Fiala said. "It could have gone either way."

But it didn't. The Oilers seized the moment. And the Kings, who had a 3-2 series lead over the Oilers last season only to lose in seven games, will need to find and sustain that elusive higher level or risk having playoff history repeat itself in an unhappy fashion.

KEVIN FIALA (22) returned to the Kings' lineup for the first time since April 1 and instantly energized the team with two assists during the first period.

OILERS 5, KINGS 4, OT

Edmonton	0	3	1	1	5
KINGS	3	0	1	0	4

FIRST PERIOD: 1. KINGS, Vilardi 2 (Iafallo, Fiala), 9:25. 2. KINGS, Arvidsson 1 (Moore, Danault), 16:48. 3. KINGS, Kopitar 2 (Kempe, Fiala), 18:11 (pp). **Penalty**—Ceci, EDM (Holding), 17:16.

SECOND PERIOD: 4. Edm., Bouchard 2 (Draisaitl, McDavid), 4:55 (pp). 5. Edm., Draisaitl 4 (McDavid, Hyman), 9:41. 6. Edm., Draisaitl 5 (Bouchard, Nugent-Hopkins), 19:49 (pp). **Penalties**—Edler, KINGS (Tripping), 3:13. Fiala, KINGS (Tripping), 19:03.

THIRD PERIOD: 7. KINGS, Roy 1 (Danault, Arvidsson), 4:28. 8. Edm., Kane 2 (McDavid, Ekholm), 16:58. **Penalty**—Hyman, EDM (Slashing), 5:55.

OVERTIME: 9. Edm., Hyman 1 (Bouchard), 10:39. **Penalty**—Kempe, KINGS (Cross Checking), 6:26.

SHOTS ON GOAL: Edm. 9-21-7-6—43. KINGS 11-8-17-4—40. Power-play conversions—Edm. 2 of 3. KINGS 1 of 2.

GOALIES: Edm., Campbell 1-0-0 (28 shots-27 saves), Edm., Skinner 1-2-0 (11-8). KINGS, Korpisalo 2-2-0 (42-37). Att—18,367 (18,230). T—3:05.

NHL PLAYOFF SCHEDULE
FIRST ROUND

WESTERN CONFERENCE

P1 Vegas vs. WC2 Winnipeg
Golden Knights lead series 2-1

Gm 1	Winnipeg 5, Vegas 1
Gm 2	Vegas 5, Winnipeg 2
Gm 3	Vegas 5, Winnipeg 4 (2OT)
Gm 4	Today at Winnipeg, 6:30
Gm 5	Thursday at Vegas, 7
Gm 6	Saturday at Winn., TBD*
Gm 7	May 1 at Vegas, TBD*

P2 Edmonton vs. P3 KINGS
Series tied 2-2

Gm 1	KINGS 4, Edmonton 3 (OT)
Gm 2	Edmonton 4, KINGS 2
Gm 3	KINGS 3, Edmonton 2 (OT)
Gm 4	Edmonton 5, KINGS 4 (OT)
Gm 5	Tuesday at Edmonton, 6:30
Gm 6	Saturday at Kings, TBD
Gm 7	May 1 at Edmonton, TBD*

C1 Colorado vs. WC1 Seattle
Avalanche lead series 2-1

Gm 1	Seattle 3, Colorado 1
Gm 2	Colorado 3, Seattle 2
Gm 3	Colorado 6, Seattle 4
Gm 4	Today at Seattle, 7
Gm 5	Wed. at Colorado, 6:30
Gm 6	Friday at Seattle, TBD*
Gm 7	Sunday at Colorado, TBD*

C2 Dallas vs. C3 Minnesota
Series tied 2-2

Gm 1	Minnesota 3, Dallas 2 (2OT)
Gm 2	Dallas 7, Minnesota 3
Gm 3	Minnesota 5, Dallas 1
Gm 4	Dallas 3, Minnesota 2
Gm 5	Tuesday at Dallas, 5
Gm 6	Friday at Minnesota, TBD
Gm 7	Sunday at Dallas, TBD*

EASTERN CONFERENCE

A1 Boston vs. WC2 Florida
Bruins lead series 3-1

Gm 1	Boston 3, Florida 1
Gm 2	Florida 6, Boston 3
Gm 3	Boston 4, Florida 2
Gm 4	Boston 6, Florida 2
Gm 5	Wednesday at Boston, 4
Gm 6	Friday at Florida, TBD*
Gm 7	Sunday at Boston, TBD*

A2 Toronto vs. A3 Tampa Bay
Maple Leafs lead series 2-1

Gm 1	Tampa Bay 7, Toronto 3
Gm 2	Toronto 7, Tampa Bay 2
Gm 3	Toronto 4, T. Bay 3 (OT)
Gm 4	Today at Tampa Bay, 4:30
Gm 5	Thursday at Toronto, 4
Gm 6	Sat. at Tampa Bay, TBD*
Gm 7	May 1 at Toronto, TBD*

M1 Carolina vs. WC1 Islanders
Hurricanes lead series 3-1

Gm 1	Carolina 2, Islanders 1
Gm 2	Carolina 4, Islanders 3 (OT)
Gm 3	Islanders 5, Carolina 1
Gm 4	Carolina 5, Islanders 2
Gm 5	Tuesday at Carolina, 4
Gm 6	Friday at New York, TBD*
Gm 7	Sunday at Carolina, TBD*

M2 New Jersey vs. M3 Rangers
Rangers lead series 2-1

Gm 1	Rangers 5, New Jersey 1
Gm 2	Rangers 5, New Jersey 1
Gm 3	N. Jersey 2, Rangers 1 (OT)
Gm 4	Today at New York, 4
Gm 5	Thurs. at New Jersey, 4:30
Gm 6	Saturday at N.Y., TBD*
Gm 7	May 1 at N.J., TBD*

* if necessary

All times PDT, unless noted

BASEBALL

NL STANDINGS

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	L10
DODGERS	12	11	.522	–	5-5
Arizona	12	11	.522	–	4-6
San Diego	12	12	.500	½	5-5
San Francisco	8	13	.381	3	3-7
Colorado	6	17	.261	6	1-9
Central	**W**	**L**	**Pct.**	**GB**	**L10**
Pittsburgh	16	7	.696	–	8-2
Milwaukee	15	7	.682	½	7-3
Chicago	12	9	.571	3	6-4
St. Louis	9	13	.409	6½	4-6
Cincinnati	7	15	.318	8½	2-8
East	**W**	**L**	**Pct.**	**GB**	**L10**
Atlanta	14	8	.636	–	6-4
New York	14	9	.609	½	7-3
Miami	12	10	.545	2	7-3
Philadelphia	11	12	.478	3½	7-3
Washington	7	14	.333	6½	3-7

Sunday's results

DODGERS 7, at Chicago 3
at Philadelphia 9, Colorado 3
at Pittsburgh 2, Cincinnati 0
at Cleveland 7, Miami 4
at Minnesota 3, Washington 1
Houston 5, at Atlanta 2
Boston 12, at Milwaukee 5
St. Louis 7, at Seattle 3
San Diego 7, at Arizona 5
at San Francisco 5, New York 4

AL STANDINGS

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	L10
Texas	14	7	.667	–	7-3
Houston	12	10	.545	2½	7-3
ANGELS	11	11	.500	3½	4-6
Seattle	10	12	.455	4½	6-4
Oakland	4	18	.182	10½	1-9
Central	**W**	**L**	**Pct.**	**GB**	**L10**
Minnesota	12	10	.545	–	4-6
Cleveland	11	11	.500	1	4-6
Detroit	7	13	.350	4	5-5
Chicago	7	15	.318	5	2-8
Kansas City	5	17	.227	7	2-8
East	**W**	**L**	**Pct.**	**GB**	**L10**
Tampa Bay	19	3	.864	–	7-3
Baltimore	14	7	.667	4½	8-2
New York	13	9	.591	6	5-5
Toronto	13	9	.591	6	5-5
Boston	12	11	.522	7½	7-3

Sunday's results

at ANGELS 4, Kansas City 3
at Tampa Bay 4, Chicago 1
Toronto 5, at New York 1
at Cleveland 7, Miami 4
at Baltimore 2, Detroit 1, 10 innings
at Minnesota 3, Washington 1
Houston 5, at Atlanta 2
at Texas 5, Oakland 2
Boston 12, at Milwaukee 5
St. Louis 7, at Seattle 3

TODAY'S GAMES

AMERICAN LEAGUE >>>

MATCHUP	W-L	ERA	TIME
OAK/Waldichuk (L)	0-2	7.65	6:30 p.m.
Angels/Suarez (L)	0-1	9.26	BSW, FS1
BOS/Sale (L)	1-1	8.00	3:30 p.m.
BAL/Kremer (R)	1-0	6.16	MLB
HOU/Urquidy (R)	1-1	3.66	3:30 p.m.
TB/Bradley (R)	2-0	2.61	
CHI/Lynn (R)	0-2	7.59	4 p.m.
TOR/Bassitt (R)	2-2	5.40	
NY/Brito (R)	2-1	5.40	4:30 p.m.
MIN/Gray (R)	2-0	0.82	

NATIONAL LEAGUE >>>

MATCHUP	W-L	ERA	TIME
MIA/Cabrera (R)	1-1	4.08	4:15 p.m.
ATL/Strider (R)	2-0	2.45	
STL/Montgomery (L)	2-2	4.84	6:45 p.m.
SF/Cobb (R)	0-1	2.79	

INTERLEAGUE >>>

MATCHUP	W-L	ERA	TIME
COL/Gomber (L)	0-4	12.12	3 p.m.
CLE/Quantrill (R)	1-1	4.15	
TEX/Eovaldi (R)	2-2	5.40	3:30 p.m.
CIN/Lodolo (L)	2-1	4.98	
DET/Boyd (L)	0-1	4.50	4:30 p.m.
MIL/Rea (R)	0-0	4.22	
KC/Keller (R)	2-2	3.00	6:30 p.m.
ARI/Henry (L)	—	—	

ODDS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Favorite		Underdog	
at ANGELS	-210	Oakland	+176
Boston	-124	at Baltimore	+106
at Tampa Bay	-132	Houston	+112
at Toronto	-172	Chicago	+144
at Minnesota	-130	New York	+110

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Favorite		Underdog	
at Atlanta	-245	Miami	+200
St. Louis	-126	at San Francisco	+108

INTERLEAGUE

Favorite		Underdog	
at Cleveland	-200	Colorado	+168
at Cincinnati	OFF	Texas	OFF
at Milwaukee	-158	Detroit	+137
at Arizona	-115	Kansas City	+105

LEADERS

NATIONAL LEAGUE >>>

Player	G	AB	H	R	Avg.
Arraez, Miami	20	72	32	8	.444
Acuña, Atlanta	22	91	34	20	.374
Nimmo, New York	22	80	28	14	.350
Marsh, Philadelphia	21	66	24	14	.364
Hoerner, Chicago	21	93	33	20	.355
Stott, Philadelphia	22	97	33	7	.340
Díaz, Colorado	21	66	22	7	.333
Bogaerts, San Diego	24	88	29	17	.330
Estrada, San Francisco	20	79	26	17	.329
De La Cruz, Miami	20	70	22	8	.314

Home runs

Muncy, DODGERS 11
Alonso, New York 10
Wisdom, Chicago 9
Outman, DODGERS 7

Runs batted in

Gorman, St. Louis 22
Muncy, DODGERS 21
Olson, Atlanta 20
Outman, DODGERS 19

AMERICAN LEAGUE >>>

Player	G	AB	H	R	Avg.
Chapman, Toronto	21	79	29	14	.367
Arozarena, Tampa Bay	21	82	28	16	.341
Guerrero, Toronto	22	85	29	16	.341
Bichette, Toronto	22	94	31	13	.330
Trout, ANGELS	20	76	25	15	.329
Dubón, Houston	18	76	25	16	.329
Verdugo, Boston	23	90	29	18	.322
Kelenic, Seattle	20	69	22	10	.319
Rizzo, New York	21	76	24	11	.316
Heim, Texas	16	54	17	12	.315

Home runs

Devers, Boston 8
García, Texas 7

Runs batted in

García, Texas 28
Álvarez, Houston 27
Arozarena, Tampa Bay 22

DODGERS 7, CUBS 3

Streak	Won 2	**This month**	11-10
Home	6-6	**Road**	6-5
Division	7-6	**Interleague**	0-0

Next: Tuesday at Pittsburgh, 3:30 p.m. PDT
TV/Radio: SportsNet LA/570, 1020

Dodgers	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Betts ss	4	1	2	4	.269
Freeman 1b	4	1	0	0	.281
Muncy 3b	4	1	1	2	.254
Martinez dh	4	1	1	1	.250
Outman cf	4	0	1	0	.311
Heyward rf	4	0	1	0	.179
Peralta lf	4	0	0	0	.208
Vargas 2b	4	1	1	0	.213
Barnes c	3	2	1	0	.063
Totals	**35**	**7**	**8**	**7**	

Chicago	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Hoerner 2b	3	1	0	0	.355
Swanson ss	4	0	0	0	.299
Bellinger cf	4	1	2	1	.300
Suzuki rf	4	0	1	1	.324
Wisdom lf	4	0	1	0	.256
Hosmer 1b	2	0	0	0	.241
a-Mncni 1b	0	0	0	0	.232
Torrens dh	4	0	0	0	.250
Gomes c	4	1	2	1	.255
Madrigal 3b	4	0	0	0	.293
Totals	**33**	**3**	**6**	**3**	

Dodgers	002	003	002 – 7	8	2
Chicago	200	010	000 – 3	6	0

a-walked for Hosmer in the 7th.

Walks—Dodgers 3: Betts 1, Freeman 1, Barnes 1. Chicago 2: Hoerner 1, Mancini 1.

Strikeouts—Dodgers 10: Betts 1, Freeman 3, Martinez 2, Heyward 1, Peralta 2, Barnes 1. Chicago 7: Swanson 2, Wisdom 2, Hosmer 1, Torrens 2.

E—Muncy (3), Barnes (1). **LOB**—Dodgers 4, Chicago 6. **2B**—Outman (2), Betts (7), Bellinger (5). **HR**—Betts (3), off Stroman; Muncy (11), off Stroman; Martinez (4), off Stroman; Gomes (4), off Kershaw. **RBIs**—Betts 4 (10), Muncy 2 (21), Martinez (15), Bellinger (15), Suzuki (6), Gomes (9).

Runners left in scoring position—Dodgers 2 (Peralta, Freeman); Chicago 1 (Suzuki). **RISP**—Dodgers 1 for 4; Chicago 3 for 7. **GIDP**—Madrigal.

DP—Dodgers 1 (Betts, Vargas, Freeman).

Dodgers	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Kershaw, W, 4-1	6	3	3	1	1	6	90	2.32
Bruihl, H, 1	1	0	0	0	1	1	18	0.00
Graterol, S, 1-1	2	3	0	0	0	0	28	2.53
Chicago	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
Stroman, L, 2-2	5	6	5	5	1	5	95	2.17
Hughes	1	0	0	0	0	2	10	1.80
K.Thompson	2	0	0	0	1	2	28	0.73
Fulmer	1	2	2	2	1	1	21	8.68

U—Erich Bacchus, Ryan Wills;, Andy Fletcher, Mike Estabrook. **T**—2:22. **Tickets sold**—33,494 (41,363).

ANGELS 4, ROYALS 3

Streak	Won 1	**This month**	11-10
Home	5-4	**Road**	6-7
Division	4-2	**Interleague**	2-1

Next: Tonight vs. Oakland, Angel Stadium, 6:30
TV/Radio: BSW, FS1/830, 1220

Kansas City	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Witt Jr. ss	4	1	1	1	.256
Melendez rf	2	1	1	1	.178
Dozier rf	2	0	0	0	.188
Perez dh	3	0	0	0	.220
Psqntno 1b	4	1	2	1	.267
Olivares lf	4	0	1	0	.237
Massey 2b	4	0	2	0	.143
Duffy 3b	2	0	0	0	.371
b-Lopez	1	0	0	0	.167
Isbel cf	4	0	0	0	.180
Fermin c	3	0	1	0	.333
Totals	**33**	**3**	**8**	**3**	

Angels	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Ward lf	3	2	1	1	.229
Trout cf	4	1	3	1	.329
Ohtani dh	3	1	2	2	.266
Renfroe rf	4	0	0	0	.274
Rengifo 2b	4	0	0	0	.190
Urshela 3b	4	0	0	0	.280
Lamb 1b	2	0	0	0	.211
a-Drury 1b	1	0	0	0	.179
Wallach c	3	0	0	0	.167
Neto ss	3	0	1	0	.200
Totals	**31**	**4**	**7**	**4**	

Kansas City	100	001	100 – 3	8	1
Angels	100	003	00x – 4	7	0

a-grounded out for Lamb in 7th. b-flied out for Duffy in 9th.

Walks—Kansas City 1: Duffy 1. Angels 1: Ward 1.

Strikeouts—Kansas City 9: Melendez 1, Dozier 1, Perez 1, Olivares 1, Massey 1, Duffy 2, Isbel 2. Angels 8: Ohtani 1, Renfroe 2, Rengifo 2, Lamb 1, Wallach 1, Neto 1.

E—Duffy (3). **LOB**—Kansas City 5, Angels 5. **2B**—Trout 2 (8). **HR**—Melendez (2), off Detmers; Pasquantino (4), off Detmers; Witt Jr. (4), off Warren; Ward (3), off Lyles; Trout (5), off Lyles; Ohtani (5), off Lyles. **RBIs**—Melendez (10), Pasquantino (7), Witt Jr. (9), Ohtani 2 (13), Ward (9), Trout (13). **SB**—Massey (1). **SF**—Ohtani.

Runners left in scoring position—Kansas City 3 (Isbel 3); Angels 2 (Rengifo, Urshela). **RISP**—Kansas City 0 for 3; Angels 1 for 6. **LIDP**—Witt Jr.. **GIDP**—Pasquantino.

DP—Angels 2 (Rengifo, Neto, Lamb; Trout, Lamb, Trout).

Kansas City	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Lyles, L, 0-4	6	4	4	4	1	5	89	4.88
Garrett	1	1	0	0	0	1	17	2.08
Taylor	1	2	0	0	0	2	15	4.50
Angels	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
Detmers	5⅔	7	2	2	1	6	90	4.15
Warren, W, 1-0	1⅓	1	1	1	0	2	21	5.40
Moore, H, 5	1	0	0	0	0	1	9	1.64
Estévez, S, 3-3	1	0	0	0	0	0	6	1.80

Inherited runners-scored—Warren 1-0. **HBP**—Detmers (Perez).

U—Shane Livensparger, Dan Bellino, Phil Cuzzi, Mark Ripperger. **T**—2:11. **Tickets sold**—36,016 (45,517).

PHILLIES 9, ROCKIES 3

Zack Wheeler struck out 11, the 17th double-digit strikeout game of his career, and Philadelphia took the final three games of a four-game set. It has won six of eight after a slow start.

Colorado	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Blackmon rf	5	0	2	0	.280
Profar lf	4	1	1	0	.197
McMhn 3b	4	1	1	0	.238
Cron 1b	3	1	0	0	.247
Mstaks dh	4	0	1	0	.182
Daza cf	1	0	0	1	.260
Trejo 2b	2	0	0	0	.237
Castro 2b-cf	3	0	0	1	.158
Tovar ss	4	0	2	1	.191
Serven c	4	0	0	0	.167
Totals	**34**	**3**	**7**	**3**	

Philadelphia	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Stott 2b	4	1	1	2	.340
Turner ss	4	1	1	1	.293
Schwarber lf	2	1	1	0	.212
1-Pache lf	0	1	0	0	.300
CastIlns rf	4	1	1	0	.307
Marsh cf	2	1	1	2	.364
Realmuto c	3	1	0	1	.247
Bohm dh	4	1	1	2	.302
Clemens 1b	3	1	1	1	.105
Sosa 3b	3	0	1	0	.317
Totals	**29**	**9**	**8**	**9**	

Colorado	000	300	000 – 3	7	0
Philadelphia	101	200	32x – 9	8	2

1-ran for Schwarber in the 8th.

Walks—Colorado 3: Profar 1, McMahon 1, Cron 1. Philadelphia 5: Schwarber 2, Marsh 2, Realmuto 1. **Strikeouts**—Colorado 15: Blackmon 1, Profar 1, McMahon 3, Cron 1, Moustakas 2, Daza 1, Trejo 2, Castro 1, Tovar 2, Serven 1. Philadelphia 5: Turner 1, Marsh 1, Realmuto 1, Clemens 1, Sosa 1. **E**—Soto (1), Turner (2). **LOB**—Colorado 9, Philadelphia 1. **2B**—Bohm (4). **HR**—Turner (2), off Ureña; Clemens (1), off Ureña; Stott (2), off Lamet; Marsh (4), off Blach. **RBIs**—Daza (7), Castro (5), Tovar (5), Turner (7), Clemens (1), Realmuto (7), Bohm 2 (18), Stott 2 (9), Marsh 2 (13). **SB**—Realmuto 3 (4). **CS**—Realmuto (1), Sosa (1). **SF**—Castro. **GIDP**—Castellanos.

DP—Colorado 1 (McMahon, Castro, Cron).

Colorado	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Ureña, L, 0-4	3⅔	3	4	4	4	0	74	9.82
Suter	1⅓	1	0	0	0	1	15	1.26
Hand	1	0	0	0	0	1	15	2.08
Lamet	1	2	3	3	1	2	29	8.10
Blach	1	2	2	2	0	1	18	8.71
Philadelphia	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
Wheeler, W, 2-1	6	3	3	3	3	11	111	4.73
Soto, H, 5	1	1	0	0	0	1	19	3.48
Alvarado	1	1	0	0	0	2	14	0.87
Ortiz	1	2	0	0	0	1	19	1.80

Inherited runners-scored—Suter 1-0. **HBP**—Wheeler (Daza). **WP**—Wheeler.

U—Todd Tichenor, Brian Knight, Alex Tosi, Tony Randazzo. **T**—2:43. **Tickets sold**—44,618 (42,901).

ASTROS 5, BRAVES 2

Corey Julks had a go-ahead, pinch-hit single in the ninth inning, and Houston won its fourth game in a row. Atlanta lost its fourth consecutive game for the first time since August 2021.

Houston	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Dubón 2b	4	1	1	0	.329
Bregman 3b	3	0	1	2	.235
Alvarez lf	5	0	1	2	.253
J.Abreu dh	4	0	1	0	.250
Tucker rf	3	1	2	0	.303
Peña ss	4	0	0	0	.216
Hensley 1b	3	1	0	0	.156
Meyers cf	3	1	2	0	.277
Mldndo c	3	0	0	0	.160
a-Julks	1	1	1	1	.327
Salazar c	0	0	0	0	.286
Totals	**33**	**5**	**9**	**5**	

Atlanta	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Acuña Jr. rf	3	1	1	0	.374
Olson 1b	3	0	0	0	.256
Riley 3b	3	0	0	0	.268
Albies 2b	3	0	0	0	.244
Rosario dh	4	0	0	0	.175
Hilliard cf	4	0	1	0	.317
Grissom ss	3	0	0	0	.273
Pillar lf	3	1	1	0	.211
Tromp c	3	0	0	0	.000
Totals	**29**	**2**	**3**	**1**	

Houston	000	000	023 – 5	9	1
Atlanta	000	011	000 – 2	3	0

a-singled for Maldonado in the 9th.

Walks—Houston 5: Bregman 2, Tucker 1, Hensley 1, Meyers 1. Atlanta 3: Acuña Jr. 1, Olson 1, Riley 1. **Strikeouts**—Houston 11: Alvarez 3, J.Abreu 2, Peña 2, Hensley 1, Meyers 1, Maldonado 2. Atlanta 13: Acuña Jr. 1, Olson 2, Riley 1, Albies 1, Rosario 1, Hilliard 2, Grissom 1, Pillar 2, Tromp 2. **E**—Dubón (2). **LOB**—Houston 7, Atlanta 4. **2B**—Meyers (2), Hilliard (4), Acuña Jr. (8). **HR**—Pillar (1), off Javier. **RBIs**—Alvarez 2 (27), Julks (7), Bregman 2 (10), Pillar (3). **SB**—Acuña Jr. (12), Tucker (5). **CS**—Meyers (1). **RISP**—Houston 3 for 10; Atlanta 0 for 9. **Runners moved up**—Peña, Riley, Rosario. **GIDP**—Dubón, Peña, Rosario. **DP**—Houston 1 (Dubón, Peña, Hensley); Atlanta 2 (Riley, Olson; Albies, Grissom, Olson).

Houston	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Javier	6	3	2	1	2	10	98	3.21
Maton	1	0	0	0	0	2	15	0.00
Neris, W, 2-1	1	0	0	0	0	0	12	2.61
B.Abreu, S, 2-3	1	0	0	0	1	1	18	0.73
Atlanta	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
Fried	6⅔	3	0	0	3	5	107	0.60
Anderson, H, 3	1	2	2	2	1	2	27	4.22
Minter, L, 1-2, BS, 4-6	1	3	3	3	1	3	30	5.73
Young	⅓	1	0	0	0	1	8	2.45

Inherited runners-scored—Anderson 2-0, Minter 3-2, Young 2-2. **HBP**—Young (Dubón), B.Abreu (Albies).

U—Chris Segal, Ben May, Jeff Nelson, CB Bucknor. **T**—2:52. **Tickets sold**—41,530 (41,149).

ORIOLES 2, TIGERS 1

Adam Frazier scored on a wild pitch in the 10th inning as Baltimore won its sixth straight. A perfect-game bid from Detroit's Eduardo Rodríguez was broken up in the seventh inning.

Detroit	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Baddoo lf	5	0	1	0	.222
Greene cf	5	0	1	0	.235
Vierling rf	5	1	2	0	.233
Carpenter dh	3	0	0	0	.218
a-Haase dh	1	0	1	0	.250
McKinstry ss	3	0	1	0	.256
Torkelson 1b	2	0	0	1	.216
Nevin 3b	3	0	0	0	.063
b-Maton 3b	1	0	0	0	.129
Rogers c	2	0	0	0	.258
Schoop 2b	4	0	1	0	.188
Totals	**34**	**1**	**7**	**1**	

Baltimore	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Hays lf	4	0	0	0	.295
Rutschman c	4	0	0	0	.291
Mntcstle 1b	4	0	1	0	.213
Urías 2b	4	0	0	0	.222
1-Frazier	0	1	0	0	.213
McCann dh	3	0	0	0	.143
d-Vavra	0	0	0	0	.182
Mateo ss	3	1	1	0	.360
Hndrsn 3b	3	0	0	0	.183
McKenna rf	2	0	0	0	.176
c-Sntndr rf	1	0	1	1	.211
Mullins cf	2	0	0	0	.243
Totals	**30**	**2**	**3**	**1**	

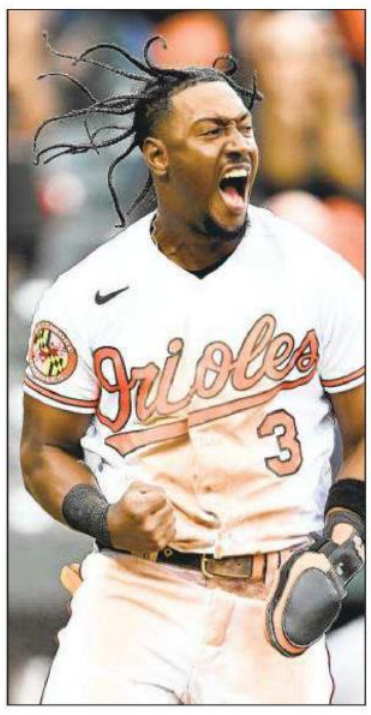
Detroit	000	000	010	0	_ 1	7	0
Baltimore	000	000	010	1	_ 2	3	0

One out when winning run scored. a-singled for Carpenter in the 8th. b-intentionally walked for Nevin in the 8th. c-doubled for McKenna in the 8th. d-sacrificed for McCann in the 10th. 1-ran for Urías in the 10th.

Walks—Detroit 7: Haase 1, McKinstry 1, Torkelson 2, Maton 1, Rogers 2. Baltimore 1: Mullins 1. **Strikeouts**—Detroit 12: Baddoo 3, Greene 3, Vierling 2, Carpenter 1, McKinstry 2, Rogers 1. Baltimore 9: Hays 2, Rutschman 2, Mountcastle 1, McCann 1, Mateo 1, Henderson 1, McKenna 1. **LOB**—Detroit 13, Baltimore 3. **2B**—McKinstry (3), Santander (6). **RBIs**—Torkelson (10), Santander (7). **SF**—Torkelson. **DP**—Baltimore 1 (Urías, Mateo, Mountcastle).

Detroit	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
E.Rodriguez	7	1	0	0	0	6	95	2.32
Shreve, BS, 0-2	⅔	2	1	1	1	1	21	3.00
Lange	1⅓	0	0	0	0	2	19	1.80
Englert, L, 0-1	⅓	0	1	0	0	0	2	4.73
Baltimore	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
G.Rodriguez	5	5	0	0	3	6	92	5.12
Baumann	1	0	0	0	0	1	11	0.79
Baker	⅔	0	0	0	1	1	17	2.45
Pérez	⅔	2	1	1	0	0	5	5.19
Voth	⅔	0	0	0	1	1	9	7.45
Bautista	1	0	0	0	0	2	16	1.69
Akin, W, 1-1	1	0	0	0	2	1	10	6.75

IBB—by Voth (Maton), by Akin (Haase), by Akin (Torkelson). **WP**—Englert. **T**—2:44. **Tickets sold**—36,975 (45,971).



GAIL BURTON Associated Press

WIN IS WITHIN A HAIR'S BREADTH

The Orioles' Jorge Mateo is fired up after tying the score in an eventual 2-1 victory.

PIRATES 2, REDS 0

Vince Velasquez struck out 10 in seven innings, his most strikeouts since May 2018, to help Pittsburgh win its seventh in a row. At 16-7, the Pirates are off to their best start since 1992, the last time they won a division title.

Cincinnati	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
India 2b	4	0	0	0	.291
Friedl cf	4	0	1	0	.303
Casali c	0	0	0	0	.227
Steer dh	4	0	0	0	.281
Fraley rf	4	0	0	0	.197
Myers 1b	4	0	2	0	.218
Fairchild lf	4	0	0	0	.200
Vosler 3b	3	0	0	0	.161
Barrero ss	2	0	0	0	.245
Maile c	1	0	0	0	.176
b-T.Stphnsn	1	0	1	0	.270
1-Senzel cf	0	0	0	0	.152
Totals	**31**	**0**	**4**	**0**	

Pittsburgh	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Hayes 3b	4	0	1	0	.227
Marcano 2b	4	0	1	0	.294
McCthn dh	4	0	1	0	.275
Santana 1b	4	1	1	0	.253
Suwinski lf	2	0	1	1	.255
Castro ss	3	0	0	0	.259
S.-Njigba rf	2	0	0	0	.125
a-Joe rf	0	0	0	0	.357
Bae cf	3	0	0	0	.206
Delay c	3	0	1	0	.314
Totals	**29**	**2**	**6**	**1**	

Cincinnati	000	000	000 – 0	4	0
Pittsburgh	100	000	01x – 2	6	0

a-walked for Smith-Njigba in the 7th. b-doubled for Maile in the 8th. 1-ran for T.Stephenson in the 8th.

Walks—Cincinnati 2: Barrero 1, Maile 1. Pittsburgh 4: Suwinski 2, Castro 1, Joe 1. **Strikeouts**—Cincinnati 13: India 1, Friedl 1, Steer 4, Myers 2, Fairchild 1, Vosler 2, Barrero 1, Maile 1. Pittsburgh 11: Hayes 2, Marcano 2, McCutchen 1, Santana 1, Castro 3, Smith-Njigba 1, Bae 1. **LOB**—Cincinnati 6, Pittsburgh 7. **2B**—T.Stephenson (4), Hayes (6), Suwinski (3). **RBIs**—Suwinski (12). **SB**—Suwinski 2 (2), Santana (1). **CS**—Suwinski (0). **Runners left in scoring position**—Cincinnati 2 (Friedl 2); Pittsburgh 5 (Bae, Hayes 2, Castro 2). **RISP**—Cincinnati 0 for 4; Pittsburgh 2 for 9. **Runners moved up**—India, McCutchen, Smith-Njigba, Delay. **GIDP**—McCutchen. **DP**—Cincinnati 1 (Vosler, India, Myers).

Cincinnati	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Greene, L, 0-1	6	4	1	1	2	6	96	3.52
Sanmartin	⅓	0	0	0	2	1	15	3.48
Cruz	1⅔	2	1	1	0	4	30	5.68
Pittsburgh	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
Velasquez, W, 3-2	7	2	0	0	2	10	100	3.76
Holderman, H, 8	1	1	0	0	0	1	14	1.64
Bednar, S, 8-9	1	1	0	0	0	2	19	0.82

Inherited runners-scored—Cruz 2-0.

U—Emil Jimenez, Carlos Torres, Jansen Visconti, Cory Blaser. **T**—2:20. **Tickets sold**—11,372 (38,753).

RAYS 4, WHITE SOX 1

Tampa Bay won its 13th consecutive home game to start the season as Zach Eflin threw five effective innings in his return from injury. Luke Raley and Harold Ramirez went deep for the Rays, who tied the 2009 Dodgers for the second-longest home winning streak to begin a season since 1901.

Chicago	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Robert Jr. cf	4	0	1	0	.233
Benintendi lf	4	1	1	0	.282
Vaughn 1b	4	0	0	0	.244
Jiménez dh	3	0	1	1	.208
Sheets rf	3	0	0	0	.303
Burger 3b	3	0	0	0	.231
Andrus ss	3	0	0	0	.208
Zavala c	3	0	0	0	.222
Sosa 2b	3	0	0	0	.147
Totals	**30**	**1**	**3**	**1**	

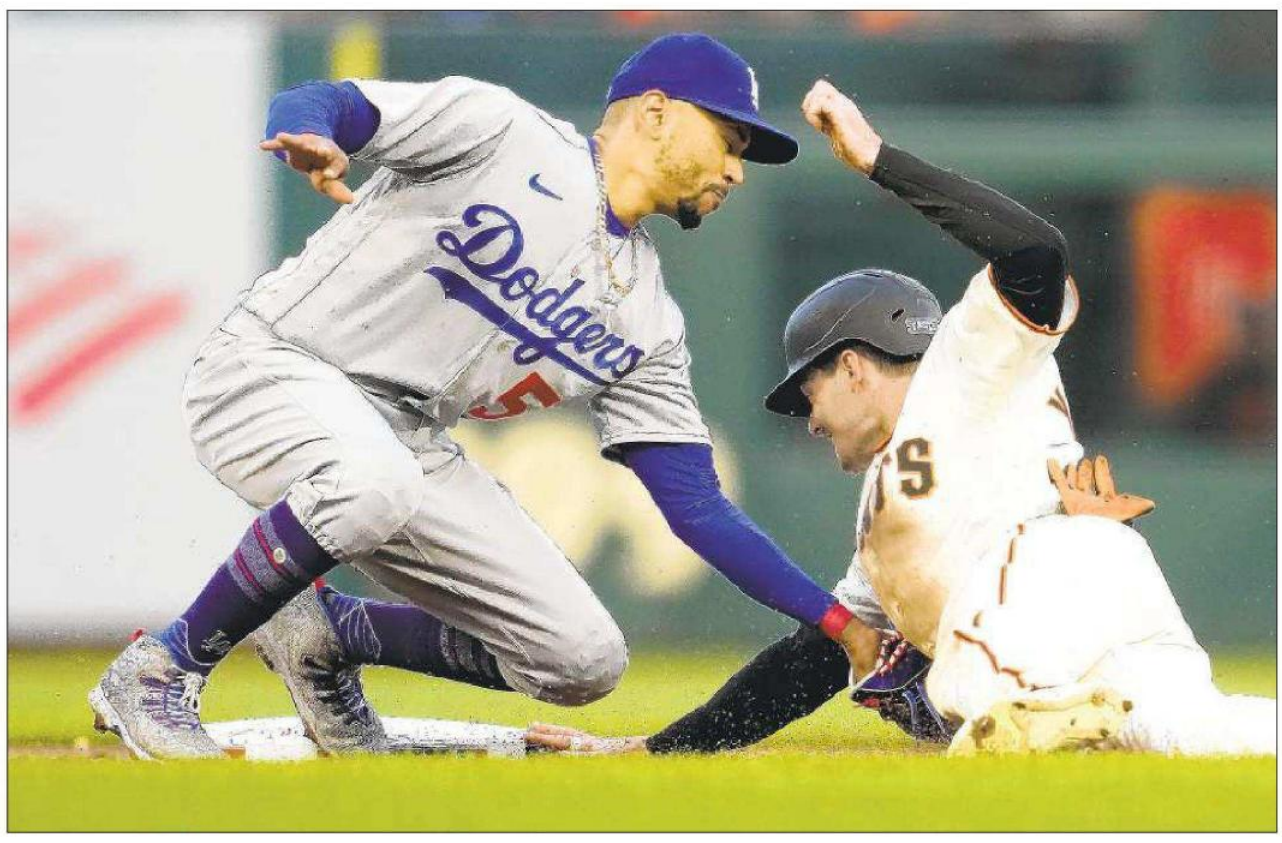
| T

BASEBALL

Betts at short might be Dodgers' long-term play

The skilled and versatile outfielder could be a sensible answer while injuries thin depth in infield.

By Jack Harris



Jeff Chiu Associated Press

MOOKIE BETTS, left, as a middle infielder, particularly at shortstop, might be the Dodgers' best option. "I just told [manager Dave Roberts]: 'I just want to win.' ... I grew up doing this, so it's nothing new," Betts said.

CHICAGO — It started as a temporary measure, a short-term solution to the Dodgers' growing infield injury list.

For all of Mookie Betts' natural skill, after all, the Dodgers had never really considered a world in which he might regularly play shortstop.

His superb defense in right field seemed too valuable. And as even he had noted on multiple occasions, the team isn't paying him $365 million to be an infielder.

However, after making his major league debut at the position Thursday night and his first career start there Sunday — he turned impressive double plays in both games — continuing to experiment with Betts at shortstop might suddenly be making a lot of sense.

"The ability and willingness for Mookie to play second or short," manager Dave Roberts said, "I can see it happening more often."

Betts was already slated to see occasional time at second base this season, stemming from the torn anterior cruciate ligament that ended Gavin Lux's year and ate significantly into the Dodgers' infield depth.

Shortstop, though, was initially seen as another beast.

Yes, Betts grew up playing the position, drafted as a shortstop by the Boston Red Sox in 2011.

And even after his early-career switch to the outfield, he continues to do pregame drills around the infield almost every day.

"He has the skill set," third base coach and infield instructor Dino Ebel said. "He has the tools."

Still, Betts had never played shortstop in a big league game. Before Thursday, his last professional appearance there was in the developmental Arizona Fall League in 2013.

His reputation as a right fielder — which admittedly isn't Betts' favorite position but is where he has flourished as a six-time Gold Glove winner — kept him pigeon-holed to that spot.

And while the Dodgers recognized his potential in the middle infield, they never really pursued it as a genuine possibility.

"I think that's way down the road," Roberts said this spring when asked whether Betts might take on an infield position. "We've got so much depth on the infield side, I don't see it happening this year.

But then Lux tore an ACL in March. His replacement, Miguel Rojas, went on the injured list with a strained hamstring last week.

At the same time, Chris Taylor tweaked an oblique that has kept him limited to bench duty for several days.

Suddenly searching for other answers, the Dodgers called up Luke Williams and, when Betts went on the paternity list for a couple of games this past week, gave Yonny Hernández a cup of coffee.

Yet, when Betts returned Thursday night — following a mad dash from the airport to get to Wrigley Field on time to be activated — Roberts and company were finally ready to make the move, fulfilling what Betts described as a career-long dream.

"I just told Doc: 'I just want to win. I'll play wherever. I'll do whatever,' " Betts said. "I grew up doing this, so it's nothing new."

From the dugout, Ebel immediately noticed Betts' comfort-level on the double play, in which he snared a one-hopper, ran to second himself and leaped over a sliding Cody Bellinger to make a throw to first base.

"The instincts took over," Ebel said. "He reacted like he played there 12 years."

First baseman Freddie Freeman, who was also on the receiving end of the double play Betts turned for the final outs of Sunday's game, has also been blown away — though hardly surprised.

"I think he could be a Gold Glover at any position," Freeman said. "I don't know many other people that can be considered top five players in all of baseball and cover multiple positions and make it look easy."

Where the process goes next is unclear.

Betts could start at shortstop again Tuesday, Roberts said, as the team waits for Rojas to return and looks for ways to give more at-bats to its left-handed-hitting outfielders.

Maybe that will be the end of the line for Betts' shortstop career.

But maybe, for an organization that treasures "optionality" with its roster, there's a world in which Betts remains a factor at the position.

The case for the latter looks something like this: Though Rojas and Taylor have far more game experience at shortstop than Betts, both have struggled mightily at the plate to begin the season. (Rojas is four for 32, and Taylor is five for 45 with four homers but also 21 strikeouts.)

If they don't turn things around, the Dodgers could be in search of a replacement at the trade deadline.

Though attractive targets should be available then, maybe none bigger than Tim Anderson of the Chicago White Sox, trading for a legitimate starting shortstop is usually no simple proposition.

Offensive-minded corner outfielders, on the other hand, are usually in greater supply come the deadline.

And if the Dodgers feel the need for another impact hitter, pursuing a trade for an outfielder, and in turn giving Betts more playing time at shortstop, could look like a viable option.

That possibility is well down the line. The Dodgers' preference would be to get enough production from Rojas or Taylor to leave Betts primarily in right field. But giving him shortstop reps now, just in case of the variables that could come into play, wouldn't hurt.

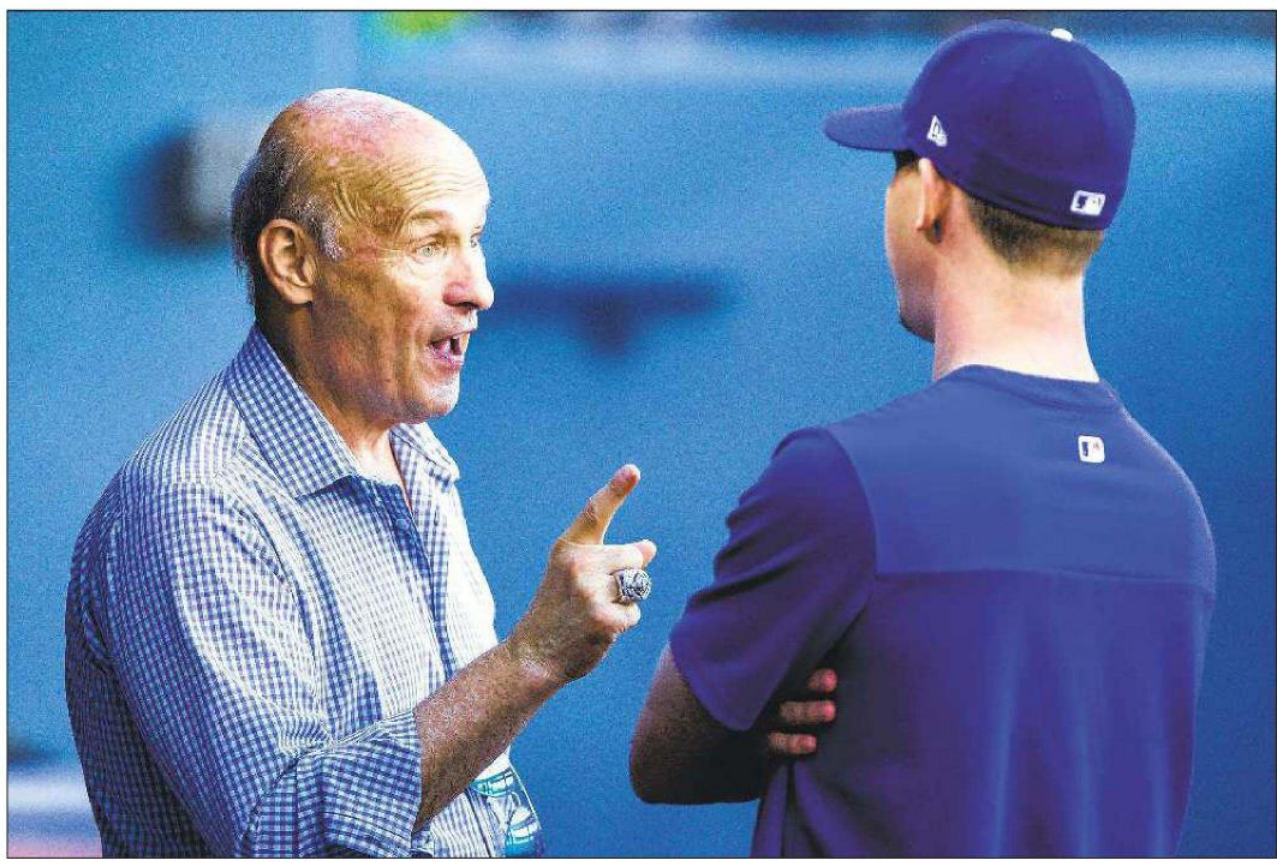
For a former most valuable player who has always dreamed about returning to the middle infield, the Dodgers already have his buy-in.

"I don't really care where I play or what I do," Betts said. "I just want to win."

Kasten confident budget strategy is on the money

Dodgers president sees no need to follow other big-spending teams when it comes to roster construction.

By Jack Harris



Alex Gallardo Associated Press

DODGERS President Stan Kasten, shown talking with Walker Buehler, is adamant L.A.'s strategy, despite other teams' free spending, will pay off. "We're not swayed very much by what other teams are doing," he said.

As he milled around near the visitors' dugout at Dodger Stadium last week, Steve Cohen made a bigger on-field presence at Chavez Ravine than any Dodgers owner has all year.

In town to watch his surging New York Mets take two of three games against the struggling Dodgers, Cohen's every move was followed.

He held court behind the plate during batting practice. He chatted with his players and staff when they approached. He visited with prominent agent Scott Boras, spending several minutes with another of baseball's biggest powerbrokers in plain sight.

It was a reflection of the hands-on, hyperaggressive reputation Cohen has cultivated since his $2.4-billion purchase of the Mets in 2020 — splurging on signings, smashing payroll records and seemingly prompting a league-wide, free-agent binge this past offseason.

And compared with the hands-off, monitor-from-a-distance style of the Dodgers' Guggenheim ownership group, and chairman Mark Walter especially, it highlighted the growing contrast between two of Major League Baseball's marquee brands.

Cohen might be hoping to emulate the Dodgers' long-term model of success, citing their decade-long run of dominance as an aspirational template for his franchise.

But as the Mets continue to ascend, some observers around the industry (and growing factions of the Dodgers' fan base) have started to ask:

Should the Dodgers re-evaluate their somewhat risk-averse approach to free agency and roster building?

Is it time for them to act a little more like Cohen?

According to Dodgers President Stan Kasten — the club's top executive and primary link between ownership and day-to-day operations — the answer is apparently no, reiterating a conviction last week of the team's current methods.

"We spent a lot of time analyzing where we are and where we want to be and what we have to do to get there," Kasten said during an interview near the Dodgers' home dugout. "We're not swayed very much by what other teams are doing."

It's hard to fault him, or anyone else in the organization, for feeling that way.

Though it has resulted in only one World Series championship, the Dodgers are still in the midst of a golden age.

They've won more games than any team over the last 10 years. They've produced nine division titles, three pennants and countless triumphant memories, bending the rest of the MLB universe to revolve largely around them.

There might have been a time they were viewed as baseball's biggest economic bullies, when the Guggenheim group poured hundreds of millions into the roster at the start of its stewardship of the franchise in 2012.

Since then, however, the Dodgers have gradually relaxed that hefty financial muscle — taking into account the same future consequences (from luxury-tax penalties to long-term salary obligations) that Cohen's Mets are currently balking at.

"We have been both short term and long term," Kasten said of the Dodgers' approach. "We have been able to invest the resources we need to develop the long-term pipeline, as well as having a top payroll year in and year out. We do again this year. And I don't foresee that changing."

The Dodgers remain one of baseball's biggest spenders. They have a luxury-tax payroll of roughly $250 million this year, according to Cot's Baseball Contracts, putting them in line to pay tax penalties for a third consecutive time.

Yet they also still act as a somewhat fiscally conservative franchise, especially in light of their myriad revenue streams and big-market advantages.

This season, for example, the Dodgers reduced what president of baseball operations Andrew Friedman had described as unsustainable levels of spending.

They slashed more than $40 million from last year's payroll. They built a reworked roster around younger and/or cheaper talent.

Cohen's Mets, by comparison, pursued almost every big-name free agent this past offseason, netting major deals with Justin Verlander, Kodai Senga and Brandon Nimmo (not to mention Carlos Correa, whose signing fell through because of issues with his physical) that raised their payroll to an MLB-record $370 million.

Other clubs seemingly mirrored those tactics, with the New York Yankees, San Diego Padres and Philadelphia Phillies also surpassing the Dodgers in spending.

Yet Kasten said his team will continue to do what it's always done.

Add enough to remain a present-day contender, while maintaining the kind of financial flexibility it believes is critical to prolonged future success.

"We try to capture the interest of our fans, as well as being good on the field," Kasten said. "We are blessed with a marketplace that allows us to do both."

The Dodgers have indulged in big expenditures when they have felt it made sense — extending Mookie Betts for 12 years and $365 million, and signing Freddie Freeman to a six-year, $162-million contract.

They are also expected to make a run at Shohei Ohtani next winter, the two-way superstar who could net a record deal upward of $600 million in free agency.

But to this point, the club seems wary of an all-out attack on the free-agent market, sticking instead to its internal valuations of players and preference for shorter-term or deferral-laden deals.

It's an ethos Kasten is adamant works for the team.

"That's not a goal of ours, to get every year's top guy," Kasten said. "We try to do something reasonable that fills holes. When we found an opportunity to [trade for] a Mookie Betts, it wasn't a free agent, but we went and got him. When we had an opportunity to get a Freddie Freeman, we did. So there's no hard-and-fast rule. If you do have hard-and-fast rules, I think that's where you develop problems. We are flexible. We'll look at all situations and consider where we are."

Asked whether that dynamic has been altered by the prevalence of new big spenders such as the Mets or Padres — who under owner Peter Seidler went on their own spending spree this offseason — Kasten shook his head.

"I don't think anything that any other team does is gonna change how we approach things," he said. "If we did that, maybe everything would [be about trying] to do what Tampa does [the Rays contend despite annually having one of baseball's lowest payrolls]. I mean, you just can't do it. You gotta do what makes sense for you, your team and your market and your system.

"So far," the 12th-year Dodgers president added, "we've been pretty fortunate with how we've gone about building these teams."

This season, of course, is threatening to reveal the downside of that process.

After an exodus of talent over the last several winters — Corey Seager, Trea Turner and Max Scherzer have headlined the stars to walk out the door — this year's roster has looked diminished amid a sputtering 12-11 start.

It's a step back the club was willing to make, enduring a potential reset season (though one it still believes carries World Series potential) in hopes of avoiding a more full-scale rebuild.

The Dodgers haven't gone all-in as the Mets, Padres or other deep-pocketed contenders.

They have work to do to remain in contention, with last week's series loss to Cohen's star-studded club serving as the latest sign.

Yet they nonetheless are bullish on their long-established processes; that, despite the rise of newer, bigger spenders, their long-term outlook will remain bright.

"We've been pretty consistent that we are flexible, depending on the year," Kasten said. "We were at a point in the cycle where we believed, and still believe, that we have a good group of younger players and wanted to leave room for them. But when there's an opportunity to get a free agent that makes sense for us, both long term and short term, we do that as well."

O'Hoppe's shoulder injury could be season-ending

Angels catcher to have surgery for torn labrum, sidelining him as many as six months.

ANGELS 4
KANSAS CITY 3

By Sarah Valenzuela

Mark J. Terrill Associated Press

SHOHEI OHTANI prepares to step on the plate after hitting the third of consecutive home runs by the Angels in the sixth inning of a victory over the Royals.

Logan O'Hoppe has not been a major leaguer for long but has impressed early this season. Then his season was put on pause, the Angels' rookie catcher tearing the labrum in his left shoulder last week. He was told this weekend that he will need surgery to repair it.

"It's like, you wait your whole life and you get here," O'Hoppe said Sunday, "and you get a taste at the end of last year and then you work even harder and then you get a taste of hopefully what the whole year has in store, and I think that's the toughest part to deal with.

"Gonna do everything I can to get back here and help this team win."

It will be a long road back for the 23-year-old. The timeline for O'Hoppe's recovery and return is anywhere from four to six months, manager Phil Nevin said.

The Angels, who defeated the Kansas City Royals 4-3 on Sunday behind consecutive home runs from Taylor Ward, Mike Trout and Shohei Ohtani, are down their two best catchers. Veteran Max Stassi remains on the injured list because of a left hip strain. He also is dealing with an ongoing family emergency.

After O'Hoppe and Stassi, the Angels' catching depth includes veteran Chad Wallach and Matt Thaiss. Wallach figures to get more of the catching responsibilities, catching Ohtani the first game of the current homestand, Sunday's game against Kansas City and probably Monday's game against the Oakland Athletics.

"I like where we're at behind the plate," Nevin said. "I'm confident in those guys. These pitchers have all thrown to 'em. So we're in a good place there."

Wallach and Thaiss had impressive games at the plate Friday and Saturday, contributing momentum-changing home runs.

"Right now, we have Matt and Chad," general manager Perry Minasian said, adding that if the Angels had to call up someone, "we'll consider everybody. If they're in the organization, we'll take a look."

After those players, the Angels' top catching prospect is Edgar Quero. He has had a prolific rise through the ranks, though at just 20 years old and still developing, he seems unlikely to get a call-up. He was promoted to double A to start this season.

Angels players feel for O'Hoppe, who had looked like an early candidate for rookie of the year. In 16 games, he scored five runs, logged 15 hits, including four homers and two doubles, walked four times and contributed 13 RBIs.

"He was playing well, and he's the one that's most disappointed," Ohtani said through an interpreter Friday, before the Angels were aware of the severity of O'Hoppe's injury. "I want to support him all the way until he comes back. ... He would hate to see the team start losing once he [starts his IL stint], so hopefully we can put on as many wins as possible before he comes back."

Trout, who has experienced season-altering injuries, talked to O'Hoppe to help keep him positive.

"It's just a little bump in the road," Trout said. "He did everything right. Freak things happen sometimes. I think he's making the right decision [to get the surgery].

"I know it was a tough one for him because you want to come back quick, but he made the right decision to get it taken care of instead of playing through it."

O'Hoppe initially felt a pop in his left shoulder swinging at a pitch during the Angels game last Monday in Boston, but he remained in that game and played the next three. He felt the pop again in the back of his shoulder during his last at-bat Thursday against the Yankees.

O'Hoppe crumpled to the ground in the batter's box on that swing, running to first base while keeping his arm and shoulder rigid. He folded over, slammed his helmet into the ground and was in tears. After that game, he said the pop in Boston freaked him out, but the pop in New York was more painful.

"It felt fine after it popped back in, in Boston," O'Hoppe said Sunday. "I mean, you hit three or four balls over 100 miles an hour, you think you're fine."

Labrum tears are not uncommon sports injuries, explained Dr. Alan Beyer, executive medical director at the Hoag Orthopedic Institute and an orthopedic surgeon. Beyer is not O'Hoppe's physician and spoke to The Times as an expert on the type of injury.

"The labrum is a commonly injured cartilage structure that is used to deepen the shoulder socket and convey stability to the shoulder joint," Beyer said.

There are typically two ways to address a labrum tear depending on a person's age. Older patients, 40 or older, usually get the torn part of the labrum removed. For someone younger, it's recommended to repair the tear by sewing it back together.

"It's a far better, longer lasting, more definitive fix to actually surgically fix the labrum," Beyer said.

The way O'Hoppe tore his labrum, swinging on a pitch, is a less common way that injury occurs in baseball players — labrum tears are more common when players slide headfirst with their arms extended, or in pitchers because of the repetitive throwing motion.

When a labrum tear occurs in a batter, it's usually because "the shoulder subluxes a little bit posteriorly in the socket and the labrum on the backside of the shoulder tears," though a tear on the front side could also occur, Beyer said.

O'Hoppe is not the only player to sustain a torn labrum swinging on a pitch. The San Diego Padres' Fernando Tatis Jr. had a similar injury swinging on a breaking ball in a game in April 2021. Tatis and the Padres tried to forgo surgery to repair his injury, but he had multiple trips to the IL through the rest of that season. Tatis eventually had surgery to repair his labrum last September.

This is the first time O'Hoppe has had a shoulder injury or any significant, possibly season-ending injury.

"It's a tough pill to swallow," O'Hoppe said. "You do everything in your power so that it doesn't happen. One thing I have been telling myself the past couple days is sitting around feeling sorry for myself isn't gonna help any situation.

"So, look at it like a challenge and tackle it head on."

Dodgers still have no power problems

[**Dodgers,** from D1]

with Mookie Betts, Max Muncy and J.D. Martinez all leaving the yard to give the Dodgers 43 homers in the first 23 games of the season.

"We have a lot of guys with good swings, and when you're able to put the barrel on the ball, good things will happen," Muncy said. "That's all we're focused on doing. Just get the barrel to the ball."

That's what the veteran slugger did with his team facing a one-run deficit in the sixth inning Sunday, sending a two-run, go-ahead blast banging high off the right-field scoreboard.

Muncy leads the majors with 11 home runs and has hit 10 in his last 13 games — dating to the reincorporation of a "step-back" move to his batting stance after an opening-week slump that was starting to affect his mechanics.

"I try not to pay too much attention to it, but it's very rewarding," Muncy said of his early home run total, which is more than one club — the National League East last-place Washington Nationals — has as a team.

"It wasn't the best start, obviously," Muncy said. "But it's one of those things where sometimes this game will tell you what needs to happen, and maybe it was telling me that I needed to make some changes. That's what we did. And so far it's been working."

So far, the rest of the team has followed his lead.

Though the Dodgers rank 24th in batting average, 27th in steals and have more strikeouts than anyone else, they also lead the majors in walks, trail only the scorching Tampa Bay Rays in homers and rank top five in scoring and on-base-plus-slugging percentage.

"Obviously, you don't want to live and die by [the home run]," Betts said. "But right now it's helping us stay afloat."

Betts, who made his first career big league start at shortstop Sunday because of the Dodgers' lack of productive infield depth, hit the team's first home run Sunday afternoon.

With the Dodgers down 2-0 after an opening-inning error by Muncy led to two unearned runs against Clayton Kershaw (who gave up only one more run the rest of his six-inning start), Betts tied the score with a two-run drive in the third.

"I don't know if we're out there trying to hit homers, but they're going over the fence," said Betts, the Dodgers' home run leader last year. "So we'll take them as we can get them."

Martinez, who earned the nickname "Just Dingers" after consecutive 40-homer seasons earlier in his career, went back-to-back with Muncy in the sixth with his fourth homer of the season.

And if not for a two-run double in the top of the ninth from Betts — who also helped the Dodgers escape a bases-loaded jam in the bottom half of that inning by initiating a game-ending double-play — home runs would have been the Dodgers' only method of run creation.

"I do think that the ability to hit for average is going to happen for our ballclub," Roberts said.

Until then, however, the Dodgers will have to keep banking on a power surge, operating with a homer-happy offense that wasn't by design.

Nam Y. Huh Associated Press

MAX MUNCY, right, celebrates with Mookie Betts after hitting a two-run, sixth-inning blast. "I try not to pay too much attention to it, but it's very rewarding," said Muncy, who leads the major leagues with 11 homers.

THE DAY IN SPORTS

Oregon State athletic director Barnes stable after falling ill

WIRE REPORTS

Oregon State athletic director **Scott Barnes** was stable and showing signs of improvement Sunday night after experiencing what the school called a medical event while attending an awards ceremony at Fresno State the night before.

Barnes, 60, was being treated at Saint Agnes Medical Center in Fresno. Oregon State said Barnes has been able to communicate with family members.

"All of us within the Oregon State University community are very grateful for the medical care that Scott continues to receive and we all are encouraged by the progress in his condition that is being seen," Oregon State President **Jayathi Y. Murthy** said in a statement.

Barnes is a former Fresno State basketball player and was at the school to receive an award Saturday.

He has been athletic director at Oregon State since 2016.

Defensive lineman **Bear Alexander** is transferring from Georgia to USC. Alexander announced his decision to move from the two-time national champion Bulldogs to **Lincoln Riley's** Trojans. The 300-pound lineman was widely considered the top player still available in the transfer portal.

ETC.

Alcaraz repeats at Barcelona

Carlos Alcaraz became the first player since **Rafael Nadal** to repeat as Barcelona Open champion with a 6-3, 6-4 win over **Stefanos Tsitsipas**.

It was the third title won this year by the 19-year-old Spaniard and the ninth of his career.

"Me and my team were talking before the match about staying relaxed," he said. "To want to play the tough moments. Staying relaxed is the most important part for me. To forget the mistakes, everything, and be myself on court. Not to think about all the people watching, but just me, the court, the racket and the final."

Alcaraz closed the final at the Rafael Nadal center court with a forehand winner for his fifth consecutive straight-set win at the tournament this year. The No. 2 Spaniard had not successfully defended a title in his career before Sunday.

Alcaraz improved to 23-2 for the year. His other titles came at Buenos Aires and Indian Wells.

In Munich, **Holger Rune** defended his BMW Open title with a hard-fought 6-4, 1-6, 7-6 (3) victory over **Botic van de Zandschulp** in the final. ... **Iga Swiatek** defended her Porsche Tennis Grand Prix title with a 6-3, 6-4 win over **Aryna Sabalenka** in Stuttgart, Germany.

Toronto Maple Leafs forward **Sam Lafferty** was fined for cross-checking in Saturday's playoff win over Tampa Bay, the NHL Department of Player Safety announced. Lafferty was fined $3,108, the maximum allowable under the collective bargaining agreement.

Blazing Sevens was withdrawn from the Kentucky Derby, allowing Jace's Road into the 20-horse field for the 149th running May 6 at Churchill Downs.

Napoli's 1-0 soccer win at Juventus means the club could seal its first Italian league title since **Diego Maradona** played for the club as soon as next weekend. ... **Victor Lindelof** converted the winning penalty kick against Brighton to set up a first all-Manchester FA Cup final June 3. ... Barcelona ended a three-game winless streak — and Atletico Madrid's 13-game unbeaten run — with a hard-fought 1-0 home victory to stay on track for its first Spanish league title in four years. ... A third-tier soccer game in Germany was abandoned after the referee was doused in beer by an angry fan at halftime. Relegation-threatened Zwickau's match against visiting Rot-Weiss Essen did not continue for the second half because referee **Nicolas Winter** had a cup of beer thrown in his face by a fan. ... Bayern Munich might have to do without Canadian defender **Alphonso Davies** for the rest of the season. The Bavarian powerhouse said Davies "sustained a muscle bundle injury" in the back of his left thigh during a 3-1 loss at Mainz in the Bundesliga on Saturday.

Kelvin Kiptum, 23, collapsed to the ground after winning the London Marathon and recording the second-fastest time in history over the distance. The Kenyan runner set the course record with a time of 2 hours 1 minute 2 seconds, missing out on **Eliud Kipchoge's** world record by 16 seconds. In what was long-distance great **Mo Farah's** final marathon, defending champion **Amos Kipruto** and world champion **Tamirat Tola** were also among the elite men's field that Kiptum left behind. Farah, 40, finished ninth with a time of 2:10:28. In the women's race, **Sifan Hassan** completed a stunning comeback to win in her marathon debut in 2:18:33 after appearing to be injured.

World cycling champion **Remco Evenepoel** of Belgium put on an impressive attacking display to win Liège–Bastogne–Liège for the second year in a row.

TENNIS RESULTS

$2.9-MILLION BARCELONA OPEN
At Barcelona, Spain
Surface: Red clay

SINGLES (final)—Carlos Alcaraz (1), Spain, d. Stefanos Tsitsipas (2), Greece, 6-3, 6-4.

DOUBLES (final)—Maximo Gonzalez-Andres Molteni, Argentina, d. Wesley Koolhof, Netherlands-Neal Skupski (1), Britain, 6-3, 6-7 (8), 10-4.

$780,637 PORSCHE GRAND PRIX
At Stuttgart, Germany
Surface: Red clay

SINGLES (final)—Iga Swiatek (1), Poland, d. Aryna Sabalenka (2), Belarus, 6-3, 6-4.

DOUBLES (final)—Demi Schuurs, Netherlands, and Desirae Krawczyk (2), d. Nicole Melichar-Martinez, and Giuliana Olmos (3), Mexico, 6-4, 6-1.

$612,000 BANJA LUKA OPEN
At Banja Luka, Bosnia & Herzegovina
Surface: Red clay

SINGLES (final)—Dusan Lajovic, Serbia, d. Andrey Rublev (2), Russia, 6-3, 4-6, 6-4.

$612,000 BMW OPEN
At Munich, Germany
Surface: Red clay

SINGLES (final)—Holger Rune (1), Denmark, d. Botic Van de Zandschulp (4), Netherlands, 6-4, 1-6, 7-6 (3).

DOUBLES (final)—Lucas Miedler-Alexander Erler, Austria, d. Kevin Krawietz-Tim Puetz (1), Germany, 6-3, 6-4.

Los Angeles Times

CALENDAR

MONDAY, APRIL 24, 2023 ⁝ LATIMES.COM/CALENDAR

Judy Blume made periods a hot-button topic in 1970. Now the mission to destigmatize menstruation continues with candid depictions on film and TV.

Los Angeles Times illustration; photos by MICHAEL MORIATIS Stalwart Productions / AMC; Prime Video; LIANE HENTSCHER Netflix; DANA HAWLEY Lionsgate

TV AND FILM projects "Dark Winds," from left, "The Baby-Sitters Club" and "Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret" take up the fight by Judy Blume, center.

A NEW PERIOD OF FRANK TALK

BY WHITNEY FRIEDLANDER

Last month, proposed Florida legislation meant to curb discussion of human sexuality and sexual health in elementary schools made national news when its author, state Rep. Stan McClain, confirmed that this would include prohibiting younger children from discussing topics such as menstruation among themselves on school property.

Outrage poured in on social media. One of the most prominent detractors was Judy Blume. The 85-year-old author and Florida resident tweeted, "Sorry, Margaret" — a reference to her seminal young adult novel "Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret," about a tween protagonist who questions (among other things) when she'll go through puberty.

If the bill does eventually become law, it might end up proving the old adage that what kids don't learn in school, they will learn from movies and TV.

A film adaptation of "Margaret," which stars Abby Ryder Fortson as the inquisitive Margaret Simon, will be released Friday. "Judy Blume Forever," a documentary about the writer that also looks at the effect her books have had on readers, hit theaters and Prime Video last week after premiering in January at the Sundance Film Festival.

Last year gave audiences "Turning Red," a Pixar movie that frankly discusses a girl's first period.

On TV, the subject has been covered on recent shows that range from adult dramas (AMC and AMC+'s "Dark Winds") and animated series (FXX's "Little Demon," Netflix's "Big Mouth") to the FX dramedy "Better Things" and Netflix's adaptation of the young-adult book series "The Baby-Sitters Club." HBO's post-apocalyptic hit "The Last of Us" may not specifically show Bella Ramsey's 14-year-old Ellie getting her first period, but it has depicted her curiosity in period products such as tampons and a menstrual cup.

The examples above signal a change from films and TV series of yore, where the focus traditionally was on an [See **Blume,** E3]

POP MUSIC REVIEW

Neil Young finally returns to stage

He joined former bandmate Stephen Stills at a benefit concert at the Greek.

MIKAEL WOOD
POP MUSIC CRITIC

Neil Young returned to the stage Saturday night for his first full concert in nearly four years, and not surprisingly, he had some misgivings to air about what's been happening in the world since he was last in front of a live crowd.

"Oh man, we got AI out there in the audience playing my lyrics to me before I write them," he said about halfway through his set as he spied a prompter displaying the words to his songs at the Greek Theatre. "Out of my face, will ya? Stop thinking at me."

With the exception of a brief appearance at an old-growth logging-protest rally in Canada in February, Young, 77, had kept off the road during the pandemic, though he made plenty of noise from home about what he views as the corporate evils of Ticketmaster and Spotify. (He also released something like a dozen LPs, including several live collections from his archives.)

What drew him back to the stage just a few months after the death of his former bandmate David Crosby was headlining Light Up the Blues, a semiannual fundraising event organized by Stephen Stills and Stills' wife, Kristen, to benefit the [See **Young,** E2]

The persistence trope persists

Apple TV+ knowingly plays with the rom-com stalker premise in Chris Evans' "Ghosted." **E2**

Book lovers strike a pose

Festival of Books participants stop by The Times' portrait studio at USC for some face time. **E3**

Comics **E4-5**
Puzzles **E4**

The birthing of 'Dead Ringers'

The team behind Prime Video's new show did the research on women's health.

BY MEREDITH BLAKE

Giving birth in the United States is diabolical. Or at least it is according to Beverly Mantle, one of two identical-twin OB-GYNs played by Rachel Weisz in the Prime Video miniseries "Dead Ringers."

A gender-switched remake of David Cronenberg's 1988 thriller, the drama is an unsettling exploration of the codependent relationship between Beverly and her twin sister, Elliot, Manhattan physicians who practice medicine — and do just about everything else — together, but who come to realize their approaches to life and work may be incompatible.

Beverly — the reserved, compassionate one who wears her hair back — wants to "change the way women birth, forever" by opening a revolutionary birthing center. Elliot is an impulsive, hair-down type, who is more excited about pushing scientific and ethical boundaries with a cutting-edge embryology lab than about providing compassionate care.

Created by acclaimed playwright and showrunner Alice Birch, and anchored by a riveting dual performance by Weisz, the series maintains the surreal, uncanny tone of the original film, which starred a deliciously sinister Jeremy Irons.

But expanded to six hours and told from a decidedly feminine perspective, "Dead Ringers" also offers an unusually clear-eyed look at reproductive healthcare in the United States — from the agony of infertility and pregnancy loss to the everyday perils of childbirth, particularly for women of color.

NIKO TAVERNISE Prime Video

RACHEL WEISZ plays twin OB-GYNs in "Dead Ringers," which consulted real experts on childbirth.

And it wastes no time in doing so: Minutes into the pilot episode, Beverly, who has been trying unsuccessfully to have a baby, scoops bloody tissue out of the toilet after experiencing yet another miscarriage. Soon after, in a visceral montage, she and Elliot do their thing — using forceps, scalpels, suction devices and all manner of verbal coaxing to deliver babies vaginally and via C-section, all the while blood splattering their shoes. Elsewhere, the show grapples with such fraught issues as the regulation of embryos grown outside the womb, the racist origins of modern gynecology, surrogacy and the influence of wealthy benefactors on medical research.

"We knew we wanted it to begin in a really grounded place," said Birch in a joint phone conversation with [See **Weisz,** E6]

TELEVISION REVIEW

Just try to turn away from magnetic twins

You'll want to flinch at graphic moments, but a superb Rachel Weisz elevates miniseries.

LORRAINE ALI
TELEVISION CRITIC

Warning to adult twins and expectant mothers: Proceed with caution through this review ... and Prime Video's new miniseries "Dead Ringers." Sibling co-dependency and on-screen birthing are taken to graphic, new levels in this superbly nefarious drama about the unhealthy bond between identical twin gynecologists.

The six-part psychological thriller flips the gender narrative on David Cronenberg's 1988 film of the same name when it follows the Mantle sisters, twin OB-GYNs (both played superbly by Rachel Weisz) who practice at the same Manhattan medical center. It's nearly impossible to tell the women apart, save for their hairstyles and divergent personalities: Elliot is reckless, impulsive and crass; Beverly is methodical, measured and polite.

Together these brilliant, British-born doctors witness the failings of the American maternal care system firsthand, from rising maternal mortality rates — especially among women of color — to preventable miscarriages and the dangers of untreated, postpartum depression.

Beverly is heard more than once proclaiming that she "wants to change the way women birth, forever," and Elliot's ethically questionable experiments could make that happen. Her late-night antics in the lab, fueled by booze and cocaine, have [See **'Ringers,'** E6]

COMMENTARY

Sweet or 'stalkerish'? Still a question in rom-coms

20 years after 'Love Actually,' Apple's 'Ghosted' makes old trope do new tricks.

By Lorena O'Neil

Of the ingredients that define the romantic comedy, none is more rewarded — by audiences or potential paramours — than the grand gesture. Think singing and dancing down high school stadium bleachers, or building your teenage sweetheart's dream house even though you haven't spoken in decades. Do it right and your best friend, who has suddenly decided she's in love with you, might just show up to sabotage your wedding.

But what about another common rom-com trope, one that often goes hand in hand with the grand gesture: the pursuer so persistent he could be mistaken for a stalker?

Romantic comedies often flirt with the thin line between ardent and alarming, and Apple TV+'s new romantic actioner "Ghosted" plays with this premise knowingly. In the film, which premiered Friday, Cole, played by Chris Evans, has a magical first date with Sadie, played by Ana de Armas. When Cole's subsequent texts and emojis to Sadie go unanswered, his mother urges him to make a move by following Sadie to London and showing up on her work trip. (His sister, a voice of reason, calls out his clingy behavior, but she's ignored.)

After Cole takes his unannounced trip across the pond, he's promptly kidnapped; it turns out Sadie is a CIA agent and he walked right into one of her missions. Cole and Sadie continue to suffer the dangerous (but humorous) consequences of his grand gesture for the remainder of the movie.

So, does this mean "Ghosted" is using rom-com tropes or subverting them? Both.

Screenwriters Rhett Reese and Paul Wernick tell The Times that, as with their previous films "Deadpool" and "Zombieland," they wanted to write a movie where they were at once making fun of a genre and embracing it. They knew the premise of Cole following Sadie to London would be a tough line to walk, and they were cognizant of it when writing the script. They said it was crucial that multiple characters call out Cole's "outrageous" behavior and that his decision to follow her would blow up in his face.

Reese said it was important not to lend credence to the stories an uncle might tell you about putting in extra effort and "wearing her down" until a prospective partner relents. He said they didn't want Sadie's character to be swept off her feet by Cole's surprise arrival and immediately fall in love.

"In fact, it goes quite the opposite direction. ... It couldn't fail more spectacularly for him," says Reese.

"You stalkered your way across the ocean to find me," Sadie shouts at Cole as she expertly drives a bus in reverse while shooting at kidnappers.

"Don't use stalker as a verb," says Cole, clinging uselessly onto a handrail. "And it was a romantic gesture!"

For Evans, the key to making Cole come across as a charming but naive romantic was capturing his sincerity. "Sometimes the line between stalkerish and really sweet is blurry, it's tough to tell," the actor said. "He's clearly a hopeless romantic. He's had a past of being potentially a little clingy, it's his nature. [But] fundamentally he's not a stalkerish guy."

Director Dexter Fletcher says he sees Evans' character as a "hero of romance" and De Armas as a "hero of action." Sadie, he says, doesn't let Cole get away with his clinginess and she "is very capable of handling someone who's showing unwanted attention."

"Of course, we understood, there is a fine line," said Fletcher. He said they were mindful not to create a character who is in "Fatal Attraction" territory, aided by Evans' vulnerable performance. "There's an inherent sweetness to Chris," Wernick agreed. "Had, for example, Paul Dano played the part, it would have been a different movie."

Writer-director Richard Curtis, whose film "Love Actually" has sparked consistent conversation about the trope since it premiered 20 years ago, has said much the same about a character, Mark (Andrew Lincoln), who is infatuated with his best friend's wife, Juliet (Keira Knightley). Juliet, to whom Mark later professes his love in a famous scene involving cue cards, first understands his true feelings when she watches her wedding video, in which Mark has filmed her nuptials as a series of close-ups on her face, her husband mostly cropped out.

"Retroactively, I'm aware that Andrew's role was on the edge," Curtis has said. "But I think because Andrew was so openhearted and guileless, we knew we'd get away with it." (For his part, Lincoln has copped to being nervous about the role, telling Entertainment Weekly he kept asking Curtis, "Are you sure I'm not going to come off as a creepy stalker?")

So what are the differences between a film whose self-awareness attempts to defuse problematic behavior and one that inspired a two-decade discourse about it? Consent — and consequences.

Apple TV+

CHRIS EVANS chases Ana de Armas in "Ghosted," but his romantic intentions land them both in hot water. The screenwriters play around with his persistence.

"Ghosted" and "Love Actually" both rely on the sweetness of the character and the charisma of the performer, but they end at different places: For Cole, there are repercussions. (Mark's only consequence is not ending up with Juliet, which is hardly a consequence, as she owes him exactly nothing. Not even the pity kiss she gives him.)

There is a moment in "Ghosted" too when Cole definitively crosses a boundary: He takes a selfie with a sleeping Sadie. When asked about the line between creepy and romantic, it's the first example De Armas and Evans bring up.

"It's just not OK," De Armas said, laughing as Evans added, "Come on, Cole, there's just no excuse for that."

The screenwriters do not let Cole off the hook for the nonconsensual cuddle photo, and without spoiling too much, it puts the protagonists' lives in jeopardy. After Sadie ends up injured in the fallout, Cole apologizes for taking the photo. (In "Love Actually," Mark makes an awkward joke about how Juliet shouldn't show the wedding video around because it needs editing, and the voyeuristic tape isn't further addressed.)

Why does the persistence trope, well, persist? The "Ghosted" screenwriters think it's because rom-coms take relatable experiences and blow them up to an exaggerated level, whether it's a heavenly first date that neither person wants to end or finding a connection and then getting unexpectedly ghosted. As Reese pointed out, most people, if they've dated long enough, have felt deeply connected to someone who didn't reciprocate *and* been irritated by someone's clinginess.

"Falling in love for someone in an immediate fashion on an early date is one of the great experiences in life," says Reese. "It was important for this movie that we captured it and made people understand someone literally crossing the Atlantic Ocean to chase somebody down."

"It's the kind of person that drives you crazy but you also can't get enough of them. I think that's something a lot of people can relate to," echoed Evans.

But 20 years after "Love Actually," the fact remains that audiences still accept, even celebrate, such persistence: Romance fans want chemistry between leads, relatable emotional challenges, funny, charismatic banter and the familiar comfort of a satisfying ending — even if an old-fashioned convention or two sneaks in along the way. In turn, even filmmakers ready to address the creepy aspects of the trope can end up rewarding it.

"I really love that moment in the movie when they pull that picture out and [Cole's] just so busted in such a public way," said Evans. "It's so cringy, I love it."

But kidnapped, busted and cringy, he still ends up with the woman who ghosted him. And we're rooting for them the whole time.

Young, Stills share the stage, pay tribute to Crosby

[**Young,** from E1]
nonprofit Autism Speaks.

Also on the bill were Willie Nelson, in town ahead of next weekend's all-star 90th birthday bash at the Hollywood Bowl; Nelson's son Lukas and his group, Promise of the Real; Joe Walsh; Sharon Van Etten; Stephen Stills' son Chris and 78-year-old Stills himself, who joined Young for a handful of tunes by their old bands Buffalo Springfield and Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young.

"This is complete bulls—, I can't play the thing," Stills joked as he tuned a banjo before "Everybody's Wrong," from Buffalo Springfield's 1966 debut, and indeed the result was a little rough around the edges. But like the entire evening, the performance had a welcome and undeniable energy: raw, funny, soothing, cranky.

The show's emotional climax was a long, searching rendition of CSN's "Wooden Ships" — which Crosby and Stills wrote with Paul Kantner of Jefferson Airplane as the three sailed the Floridian seas imagining a nuclear holocaust — that brought together Stephen Stills with his son and with Crosby's son James Raymond, both of whom were set to back Crosby on tour when he died in January.

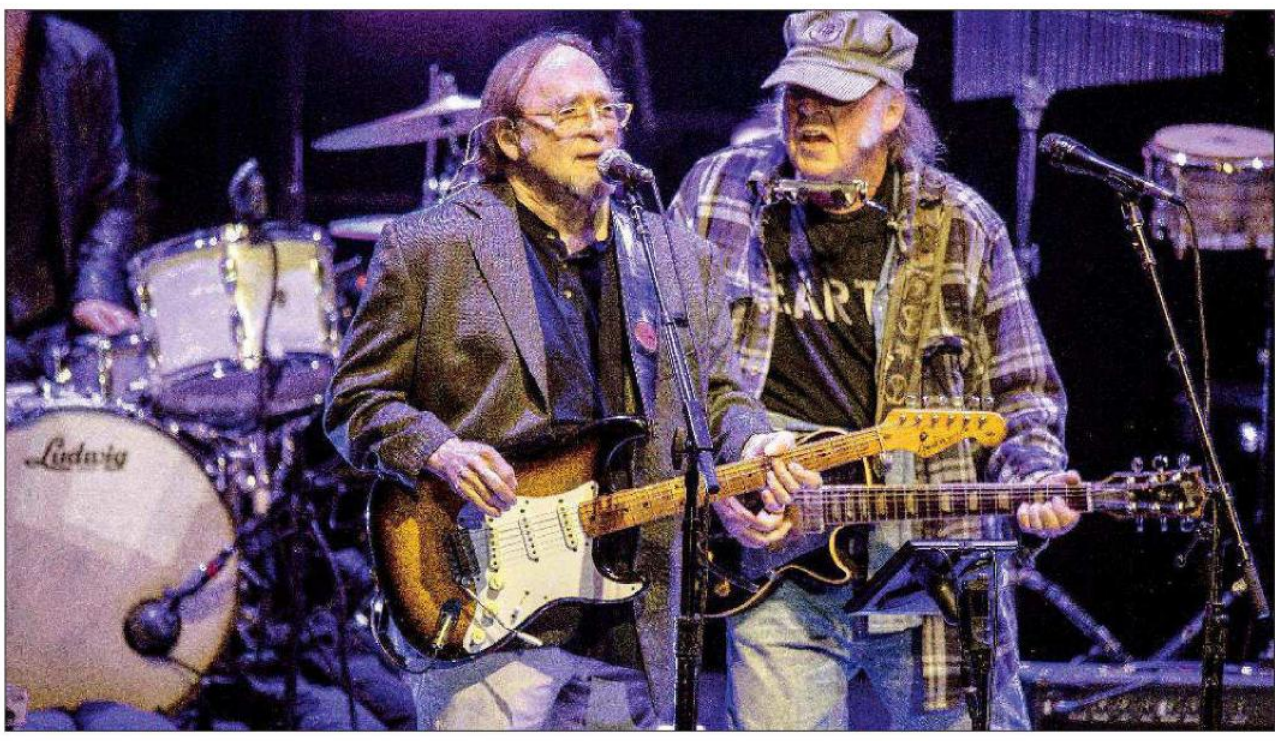
Earlier, Graham Nash, who'd been booked for a gig Saturday near Pittsburgh, appeared on video to remember Crosby as his "best friend for almost 50 years" and to introduce an old clip of the two of them singing CSN's "Guinnevere" with Wynton Marsalis.

Nelson, flanked by his sons Lukas and Micah, was as always a kind of musical spellbinder as he toyed with the deeply etched melodies of "Funny How Time Slips Away," "Crazy" and "Night Life" in a nimble medley that had him picking out gloriously asymmetric guitar solos on his battered acoustic, Trigger. Walsh was as always a laugh riot as he introduced "Life's Been Good" and "Rocky Mountain Way" — think about this man's deftness with a riff if you haven't for a minute — by gently lampooning the do-gooder atmosphere: "I don't really have a campaign yet, but I'd appreciate your vote," he said. (Walsh had dressed the rock-star part in a leather jacket *and* leather trousers, which only emphasized Stills' having turned up in the baggy khakis of a Deloitte consultant.)

But Young, whose mutton chops crept out from under his train conductor's cap, was clearly the night's main attraction, a prestige position he repaid by opening with a string of strummy-sensitive hits — "From Hank to Hendrix," "Comes a Time," "Heart of Gold" and CSNY's "Helpless," the last of which featured Stills on piano — before Stills joined him to dig into Buffalo Springfield's catalog.

"For What It's Worth" rode an appealingly swampy groove and had a splintery solo by Young; "Mr. Soul" was a jagged blast of whammy-bar psychedelia. (In addition to "Everybody's Wrong," they also did "Bluebird" and "On the Way Home.") The nasal whine of Young's one-of-a-kind voice sounded unchanged by whatever rest it got during COVID; he still came on like a guy who can't believe he has to deal with everything he's dealing with.

Young and Stills closed the show with a tender acoustic reading of "Long May You Run," recorded in the mid-'70s amid the privileged acrimony of one of CSNY's many breakups. But with Crosby's memory so close to the surface, all that seemed like the stuff of ancient history. They were singing to each other, and about each other too.



Photographs by Harmony Gerber Getty Images

STEPHEN STILLS, left, and Neil Young played songs from Buffalo Springfield at benefit Light Up the Blues.

WILLIE NELSON and his famed acoustic guitar, Trigger, shared the stage with his son Lukas, left.

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JUDY BLUME FOREVER 1:30 4:30 7:30

MONICA 1332 Second Street Santa Monica
BEAU IS AFRAID R 12:50 3:45 7:10
CHEVALIER PG-13 1:30 4:20 7:10
MATTER OUT OF PLACE 7:00 PM
WILD LIFE PG-13 1:10 4:30 7:30
WILD LIFE PG-13 5:15 PM
HOW TO BLOW UP A PIPELINE R 4:10 PM
SHOWING UP R 1:20 7:20
AIR R 1:10 4:00 7:00
DOSED: THE TRIP OF A LIFETIME 1:00 3:10 7:30

TOWN CENTER 17200 Ventura Blvd. Encino
CHEVALIER PG-13 1:20 4:20 7:20
SOMEWHERE IN QUEENS R 1:00 4:00 7:00
EVERYTHING WENT FINE 1:10 7:00
MAFIA MAMMA R 1:30 4:30 7:30
HOW TO BLOW UP A PIPELINE R 4:00 PM
AIR R 1:00 4:10 7:10

NEWHALL 22500 Lyons Ave. Santa Clarita
BEAU IS AFRAID R 12:50 7:10
CHEVALIER PG-13 1:10 4:10 7:20
EVIL DEAD RISE R 1:30 4:20 7:00
MAFIA MAMMA R 4:35 PM
THE POPE'S EXORCIST R 1:20 4:00 7:10
RENFIELD R 12:55 3:10 5:25 7:40
AIR R 1:20 4:10 7:20
THE SUPER MARIO BROS. MOVIE PG 12:50 3:00 5:15 7:30

GLENDALE 207 N. Maryland Ave Glendale
BEAU IS AFRAID R 12:50 3:50 7:10
THE BEST MAN R 1:30 PM
BLIND WILLOW, SLEEPING WOMAN 4:10 PM
MATTER OUT OF PLACE 7:00 PM
RENFIELD R 12:50 3:05 5:20 7:40
HOW TO BLOW UP A PIPELINE R 4:30 7:20
SHOWING UP R 1:10 4:35 7:35
TOMMY GUNS 1:10 PM

NoHo 7 5240 Lankershim Blvd. No. Hollywood
BEAU IS AFRAID R 12:50 3:50 7:10
CADEJO BLANCO 1:10 4:10 7:10
TO CATCH A KILLER R 1:20 4:30 7:20
MAFIA MAMMA R 4:40 PM
RENFIELD R 12:50 3:05 5:20 7:35
HOW TO BLOW UP A PIPELINE R 1:10 7:40
AIR R 1:20 7:00
THE SUPER MARIO BROS. MOVIE PG 12:55 3:10 5:25 7:40

CLAREMONT 450 W. 2nd Street Claremont
BEAU IS AFRAID R 12:50 3:45 7:10
MAFIA MAMMA R 4:40 PM
MATTER OUT OF PLACE 7:00 PM
RENFIELD R 12:50 3:05 5:20 7:35
HOW TO BLOW UP A PIPELINE R 1:10 PM
AIR R 1:20 4:20 7:20
THE SUPER MARIO BROS. MOVIE PG 12:55 3:10 5:25 7:40

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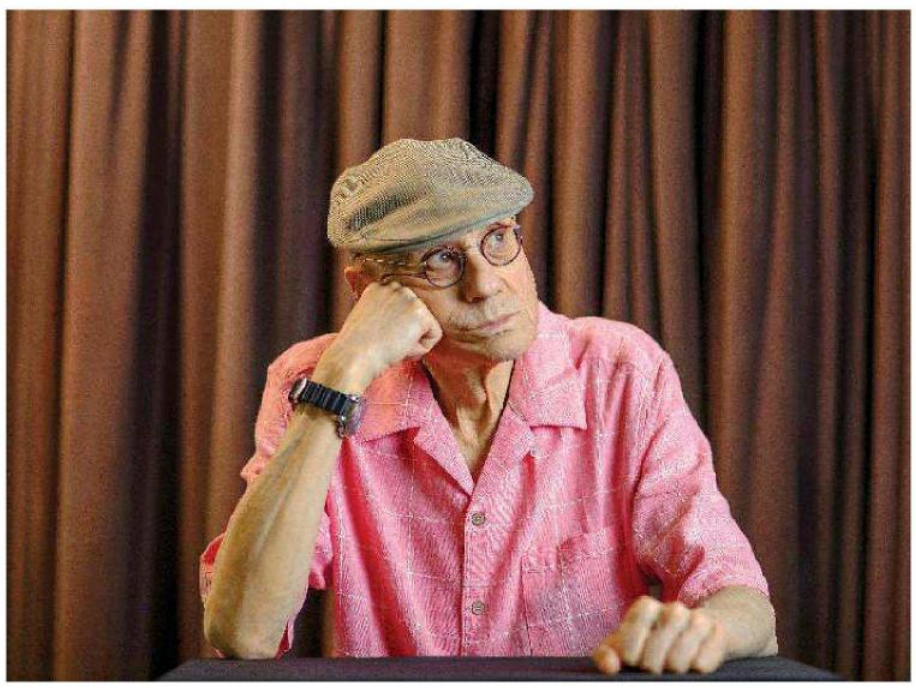
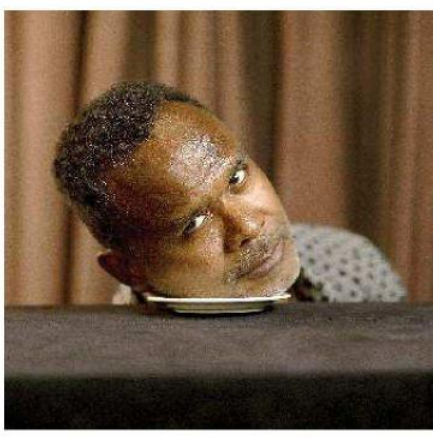
Writers stop by to say hello at the Festival of Books

PHOTOGRAPHS BY MYUNG J. CHUN

USC played host to the 28th L.A. Times Festival of Books on Saturday and Sunday — in a big way. There were new topics of discussion at every turn, with panels featuring musicians (Joan Baez! Susanna Hoffs!), politicians (Stacey Abrams! Katie Porter!), celebrities (Matthew Perry! Jennifer Garner!) and poets, artists, chefs, journalists and, yes, even novelists. Here's a look at just a few.

SONIA GUIÑANSACA, above, co-editor of "Somewhere We Are Human," an anthology of essays, poetry and art. Shaunna and John Stith, authors of "Black Beach: A Community, an Oil Spill, and the Origin of Earth Day."





JAMES ELLROY, far left, recipient of the 2022 Robert Kirsch Award for lifetime achievement, author Tess Gunty and food writer and author James Hannaham.

A hot-button topic once more

[**Blume,** from E1]
adult's response to a girl's first period (HBO's "Curb Your Enthusiasm," FX's "Nip/Tuck") or filling the young character experiencing the change with feelings of confusion and fear (the movie "My Girl") or embarrassment (AMC's "Mad Men").

The intransigence of that trope makes the new wave of depictions all the more important to reducing stigma. Even for those most dedicated to tackling the subject of first menstruation candidly, though, old habits die hard. Kelly Fremon Craig, the writer and director of the "Margaret" film adaptation, says she had to "beat it out of myself" when she obtained the rights to the book in 2018.

"I would sit down with groups of people, [including] a bunch of men in suits, and I felt myself feel a little embarrassed saying 'period' out loud," she says. "Why is this thing that half of us go through still weird and embarrassing, in some ways? It shouldn't be. Part of what was exciting about making the movie was filming some of these things. [In my movie], Margaret puts a [sanitary] pad in her underwear, something that I've never seen another human being do." (The filmmaker chose not to show menstrual blood in the film, both to keep the focus on the emotional experience and for the practical reason that "everyone's looks a little different.")

Such stories represent a sea change in the representation of first menstruation, a topic that has been largely absent in even the most inclusive of material. Rachel Shukert, creator of Netflix's beloved-but-canceled adaptation of "The Baby-Sitters Club," notes that the original Ann M. Martin book series might have discussed bras and physical development but never periods — something she felt was lacking in a tale about junior-high girls.

The first episode of her TV series finds Claudia (Momona Tamada) nonchalantly mention menstruation, and the Season 1 finale ends with Kristy (Sophie Grace) getting her first period at her mom's wedding. Kristy's friends, who have all already experienced this monumental life event, teach her how to use a pad.

Shukert says showing Kristy's journey was meant to "normalize" the experience.

"On the one hand, it's obviously a milestone in your body," she says. "But it also was just a thing that you need a pad for. That it was coming on this day [of her mom's wedding], where there was this big milestone and a day of much change for everybody, was a way to show it that [both] didn't short-change it and act like it's no big deal at all. It isn't scary and it isn't secret and it isn't mysterious."

Shukert says the audience response from younger viewers was generally positive.

"In a good way, it seems like this generation of girls is better educated about their bodies," she says. (Though some in the adult audience did grumble about having to discuss periods with their 9-year-olds, Shukert also heard from parents appreciative that the show offered a way into the conversation with their kids, she says.)

Indeed, not all cultures necessarily start from a position of shame or discomfort when it comes to first menstruation. The first season of AMC and AMC+'s "Dark Winds," a gritty crime drama based on Tony Hillerman's Leaphorn & Chee books and set on a Navajo reservation, covers heavy topics such as murder, cultural genocide and kidnapping. But it also reserves time for a depiction of a *Kinaaldá*, a female-led ceremony that welcomes a girl into adulthood. In the third episode, Makena Ann Hullinger's Nanobah giddily tells her Aunt Emma (Deanna Allison) that she's gotten her first period, and the entire community comes together to celebrate it as a rite of passage.

"When the writers of [Season 1] sat down to look at the Leaphorn & Chee books, we quickly noticed a large hole as it related to our experience as Indigenous people. Namely: the central importance of Native women in our communities," Maya Rose Dittloff and Razelle Benally, the "Dark Winds" staff writers who penned this episode, wrote in an email to The Times.

In writing the episode, they felt "it was important to show the strength of community, and to interrupt the darkness of what is an investigative crime series, [by showing] the beauty and vibrance of this Native community."

There are a "wide range of traditions, customs and beliefs throughout Indian Country," the writers added. "[But] very often, colonization has widely changed attitudes toward puberty. Today, we have to work and fight to maintain and keep our traditional customs and values. That's because very often these values, these beliefs, they're at odds with Anglo/Western views."

FXX's animated comedy "Little Demon" makes the first period's association with a girl coming into her own literal: The series centers on Chrissy Feinberg (Lucy DeVito), the teen antichrist and child of Satan (voiced by DeVito's real-life father, Danny), and an unflinching mortal, Laura (Aubrey Plaza), who's been raising Chrissy on Earth, desperately attempting to outrun her ex. Things are going more or less OK until Chrissy gets her period in the show's premiere episode, "First Blood." This is not only a homing beacon to her dad, but it also unlocks a lot of the abilities Laura had hoped might skip a generation. (Minutes after the bleeding starts, Chrissy is able to explode two bullies based solely on the power of her internal rage.)

"It's showing that she has this untethered and uncontrolled strength and anger and emotions inside that she didn't know that she had. How is she going to go forward with that? How is she going to control that?" says co-creator Darcy Fowler. She and collaborators Seth Kirschner and Kieran Valla went back and forth about Chrissy's age when developing the show, finally deciding that it "was important for us to explore a 13-year-old girl who can express emotions like that."

> 'Why is this thing that half of us go through still weird and embarrassing, in some ways? It shouldn't be.'
>
> — Kelly Fremon Craig
> "Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret" director and writer

"We're using horror metaphors [in this show], and that is the most horrifying time," Fowler says, adding that it's a "balance between girlhood and womanhood and all the expectations that come along with it ... and what's going on inside, with the lack of control you have ... 13 is exactly the right time."

Dr. Jen Gunter, a gynecologist known to her legions of fans for her takedowns of religious- or celebrity-based misinformation on reproductive health and the author of the upcoming book "Blood: The Science, Medicine, and Mythology of Menstruation," stresses that much of the stigma around periods is based on "all these patriarchal ideas about 'now you've got your period, you can be married off and you can reproduce; you've now got some value.' "

Gunter cites the example of advertising for period products, which have historically shown "fresh" images, and thus, she says, have made "the implication that you're filthy, so let our products keep you like a field of flowers."

This means that films such as "Margaret" are still fighting much the same cultural messages — and more explicit attempts to censor the discussion, as with McClain's bill — as Blume was when her book was first published in 1970. Davina Pardo, the co-director of "Judy Blume Forever," says the principal at the school Blume's own children attended refused to allow copies of "Margaret" in the library when it was released, calling it "inappropriate."

As long as there have been tween and teen girls, though, there has been, and will continue to be, talk about periods. Restrictions just keep the conversation coded.

Pardo's directing partner, Leah Wolchok, says there was an exchange between Blume and her childhood friend Mary Weaver that was cut from the documentary. The women remembered sitting in typing class as one confided to the other using a not-so-subtle euphemism: "I'm having a gusher."

"Me too," her friend would respond.

COMICS

SUDOKU

1	2					8	7	6
		5	3					
				2				
	9	8		6	4	7		
	3						1	
		1	8	9		4	6	
				5				
					8	2		
6	4	2						5

Level: Gentle

	5	6			
		1	6		
	4				5
				4	
		3			
			1	6	

Level: Gentle

1	7	4	5	9	2	8	3	6
8	3	2	1	4	6	5	9	7
6	5	9	3	8	7	1	2	4
2	1	6	8	5	4	3	7	9
3	4	8	7	1	9	2	6	5
7	9	5	6	2	3	4	8	1
4	8	7	9	3	5	6	1	2
9	2	3	4	6	1	7	5	8
5	6	1	2	7	8	9	4	3

2	3	4	6	5	1
5	6	1	2	3	4
4	2	3	5	1	6
1	5	6	4	2	3
3	4	5	1	6	2
6	1	2	3	4	5

4/24/23

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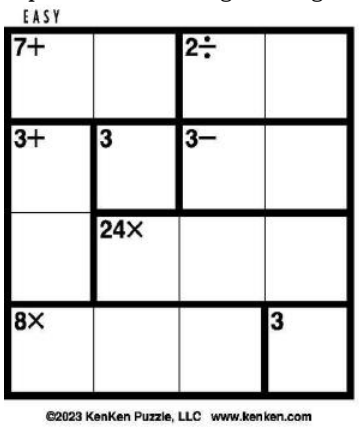
Solutions to Sunday's puzzles

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 or 2-by-3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 (or 1 to 6 for the smaller grid). For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit *www.sudoku.org.uk*.

KENKEN

Every box will contain a number; numbers depend on the size of the grid. For a 6x6 puzzle, use Nos. 1-6. Do not repeat a number in any row or column. The numbers in each heavily outlined set of squares must combine to produce the target number found in the top left corner of the cage using the mathematical operation indicated. A number can be repeated within a cage as long as it is not in the same row or column.

EASY



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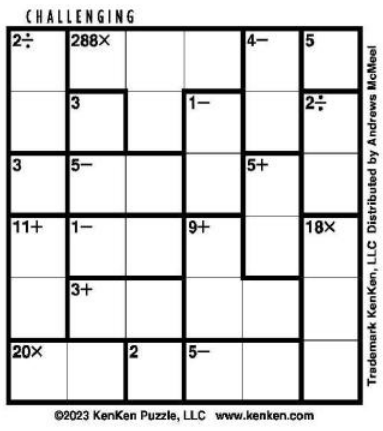
CHALLENGING



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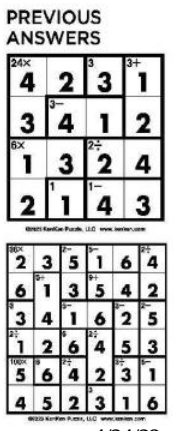
PREVIOUS ANSWERS



4/24/23

HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis

Aries (March 21-April 19): Whether natural or imposed, an unhurried sense of time will serve you in multiple ways.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): You want to help someone but are afraid you'll be trapped. Help people help themselves by teaching them instead of doing things for them.

Gemini (May 21-June 21): Every day has the potential to be the beginning if you want it to be, but some days it's easier to see the fresh start.

Cancer (June 22-July 22): After striving, gaining ground and seeing continual improvement, it is natural to hit a plateau. This is a signal to change up your strategy.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): Though you are loyal to those in your vicinity, try not to become too local.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): It would be easy to overlook sources of joy. You'll see opportunity better when you don't need things to be any certain way.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23): Don't try to hide a flaw. Instead, put a frame around it, spotlight it and ponder everything that's good about it.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21): You learn what's expected so you can exceed it. Your communication is stellar, your understanding multilayered.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): The total scope of people's motivations is unknowable. You'll consider the entire context of a scenario and handle matters carefully and discreetly.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): When it's time to be charitable, you'll give it away for free. And when it's time to be professional, you charge a fair price.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): What can you let go of to make room? Good luck comes to you when there's a place for it.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): All investments, including financial, energetic and emotional, come with risk. Not knowing how it's going to go is part of the excitement.

Today's birthday (April 24): Welcome to the year of the effortless stellar attitude. It's like your set point is at "winning." The other easy thing for you will be staying in the moment, and it's this gift of presence that brings the gleaming world to you. You'll pace financial dealings well and earn a bigger payoff. More highlights: love notes, a commitment fulfilled and a profound honor. Leo and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers: 2, 20, 5, 14 and 8.

Mathis writes her column for Creators Syndicate Inc. The horoscope should be read for entertainment.

CROSSWORD

Edited By Patti Varol and Joyce Nichols Lewis

By Brian Callahan

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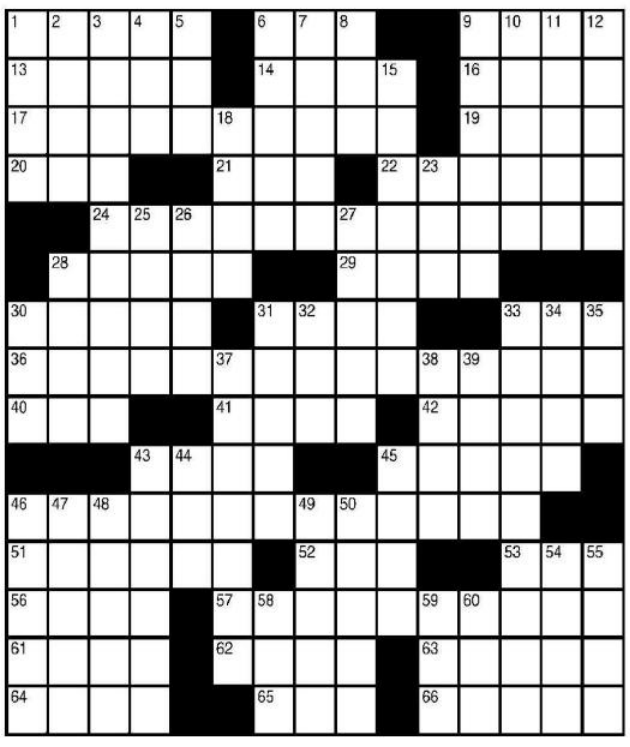


ACROSS

1 Desert plants on Arizona's state quarter
6 "Succession" cable network
9 Mr. Potato Head limbs
13 Feature of many a clock app
14 "Sunday Night Baseball" nickname
16 Lye, to a chemist
17 Palm crease read by fortunetellers
19 "__ Murders in the Building": Hulu series
20 Really angry
21 Malty beer
22 __ party
24 Wash unit
28 Backyard border
29 "Gangsta Rap" rapper
30 Gem
31 Ring up
33 Persian Gulf fed. with seven members
36 Esports giant from Riot Games
40 Old Mac platform
41 Superficially cultured
42 Wall-climbing vines
43 Spanish "other"
45 Hunter who shines at night?
46 Illinois nickname
51 Latin for "as originally positioned"
52 Slangy turndown
53 Wager
56 Frozen dessert brand
57 Letter ender similar to XOXO
61 Chap
62 Type
63 __ the Riveter
64 PC bailout keys
65 Spanish "today"
66 Last name of the "Full House" twins

DOWN

1 Relaxed
2 Et __: and others
3 Drip from a menorah
4 Final album in the Green Day trilogy that includes "¡Uno!" and "¡Dos!"
5 "As I see it" shorthand
6 Winnie-the-Pooh greeting
7 Legal write-up
8 Gasp of pain
9 Appropriate rhyme for "appoint"
10 Dept. that tests new products
11 Back tooth
12 In a timid way
15 Utter fiasco
18 Grow dim
23 Regret
25 Universal donor's type, briefly
26 First Amendment advocacy gp.
27 Activist Ledbetter for whom the 2009 Fair Pay Act is named
28 Bank add-ons
30 Half of Bennifer, familiarly
31 Reef makeup
32 Away from the bow, on a boat
33 Labor leader
34 Yemen coastal city
35 Snaky letter
37 Lengthy rebukes
38 Big name in bike and snow helmets
39 Really, really bad
43 Laudatory poets
44 Tyke
45 Nueve menos uno
46 Feudal lord
47 South American mountain range
48 Justin Timberlake's former band
49 Many a 101 course
50 Really, really bad
54 1960s pop singer Sands
55 Many a character in YA fiction
58 "__ la la!"
59 Move to and __
60 Response to a funny text, and a hint to this puzzle's five longest answers

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

W	I	S	H		W	A	R	P	S		D	E	N	S
A	S	H	E		A	D	E	L	E		E	X	E	C
G	R	E	C	O	R	O	M	A	N		S	T	A	R
		S	H	O	D		A	N	T	I	D	O	T	E
	K	A	T	H	R	Y	N	B	I	G	E	L	O	W
H	A	L		S	O	O			N	I	M			
A	R	A	B		B	U	G	S		V	O	U	C	H
M	A	D	E	L	E	I	N	E	L	E	N	G	L	E
S	T	Y	L	I		N	U	D	E		A	L	O	E
			L	E	A			A	N	A		Y	S	L
T	H	E	B	O	S	T	O	N	G	L	O	B	E	
N	O	N	U	N	I	O	N		T	U	N	E		
O	N	T	O		A	R	I	T	H	M	E	T	I	C
T	O	R	Y		N	A	C	R	E		A	T	O	P
E	R	E	S		S	H	E	E	N		M	Y	N	A

4/24/23

BRIDGE

By Frank Stewart

"To get rid of a bad habit, don't toss it out the window; coax it down the stairs, one step at a time."

Many declarers have the bad habit of drawing trumps at the wrong time. At four spades, South ruffed the first heart, led a trump to dummy's queen and cashed the ace. No king appeared.

South next led a club, but West won, took his king of trumps and led another heart, forcing out South's last trump. South ran the clubs, but the defense won the last three tricks. Down two.

South's play in trumps left him open to losing control. South can finesse in trumps at Trick Two but should lead a diamond next. West wins and leads another heart, and South ruffs and forces out the ace of clubs. (Even if the defense could get a club ruff, South might be no worse off. If East had 6 3, A Q 6 5 2, 8 7 5 3 2, 2, the game would be unmakeable.)

South ruffs the next heart, takes the ace of trumps and runs his winners. He loses only to West's high trump. This week: trump management.

You hold: ♠ J 9 7 5 2 ♥ None ♦ Q 10 4 ♣ Q J 10 8 4. Both sides vulnerable. Your partner opens one spade, and the next player bids two hearts. What do you say?

Answer: Bid four spades to show a big spade fit and a shapely hand but little high-card strength. With a strong hand, you would cue-bid three hearts. If partner plays at four spades and doesn't make it, chances are the opponents could have made a high contract if left room to locate it.

West dealer
Both sides vulnerable

NORTH
♠ A Q 4
♥ K 7 4
♦ K J 9
♣ K 9 5 3

WEST
♠ K 10 8
♥ J 10 9 8 3
♦ A 6 2
♣ A 6

EAST
♠ 6 3
♥ A Q 6 5 2
♦ 8 7 5 3
♣ 7 2

SOUTH
♠ J 9 7 5 2
♥ None
♦ Q 10 4
♣ Q J 10 8 4

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♥	1 NT	3♥	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Opening lead – ♥ J

Tribune Content Agency

ASK AMY

Roommates snoop around

Dear Amy: I'm a college student living with college-age roommates in a four-bedroom, one-bathroom house. We each have our own room and we share common living spaces.

A few months ago, I started noticing my locked bedroom door mysteriously unlocked and wide open, exposing my belongings to the rest of the house.

I promptly put up a security camera in my room.

Sure enough, one day I got a notification of a person breaking into my room.

I saved the video and anxiously pondered what I should do. I decided to do nothing and see if it would happen again.

Again, I received a notification that a person was in my room.

This time all of my roommates were in my bedroom — scoping it out (it's a tiny room).

One roommate spotted the camera and immediately left the room. On the tape I heard him state to the others that they should say the reason for forced entry was to shut the open window.

I am furious and conflicted on what I should do.

Should I file a police report? Confront them? Or should I, again, do nothing?

Locked In

Dear Locked In: This is creepy. You have video (and audio) of all of your roommates snooping through your room. They are also now aware that you have a camera, which should deter future raids.

In the short term, I don't think it's a good idea to confront these people because you don't seem to have any allies in the house.

Before going to the police, I suggest you contact your landlord, report what happened, and ask for a deadbolt lock to be installed on your door. Review your lease agreement, and start looking for other housing.

I do think you should go to the police, but it might be wise to wait until you secure other housing and move your things out. This is trespassing and these people should be called to account.

Dear Amy: I have a new grandson who was born prematurely; he is in the NICU.

This has been an extremely stressful and emotional time for our family.

This is our first grandchild.

Recently a good friend returned from her winter in Florida and called me.

She asked how we were doing, and I gave her a very brief description of what was going on.

Her responses were rushed and uncomfortable, and she couldn't wait to get off the phone.

She does not have grandchildren, so maybe that explains her response?

I'm kind of puzzled, as she is usually a very kind friend.

Any thoughts or advice?

Puzzled

Dear Puzzled: Your friend might have seemed rushed and uncomfortable because she was upset by your news and wanted to make sure she didn't keep you away from your family.

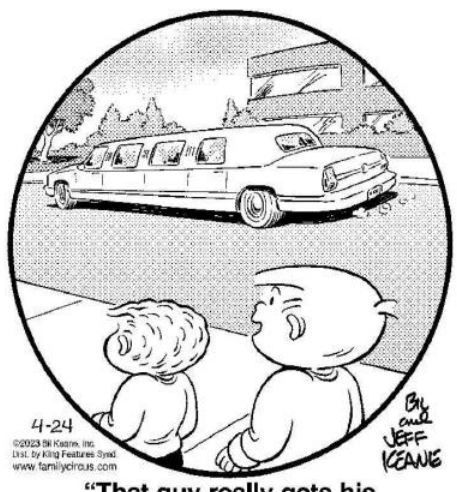
Yes, this response was unexpected, but this is a great example of the truism that we often simply don't know what other people are going through.

When you're baffled by someone else's behavior, anchoring to this perspective can prompt you not to take things personally — until you are given just cause.

It is possible that your friend had a previous similar experience that your story triggered. Or she was taken by surprise, messed up and disappointed you.

Email questions to Amy Dickinson at *askamy@amydickinson.com*.

FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



"That guy really gets his money's worth when he goes through a car wash."

DENNIS THE MENACE By Hank Ketcham

"WOW! I DIDN'T KNOW GRANDPA AND GRANDMA WERE MARRIED IN BLACK AND WHITE."

REPLY ALL LITE By Donna Lewis

MARMADUKE By Brad & Paul Anderson

"He just had a pedicure and won't shake until his nails are dry."

BLISS By Harry Bliss

"He's at the perfect age for this."

SPEED BUMP By Dave Coverly

WE SHOULD PROBABLY STOP CALLING EACH OTHER "FLUFFY'S PERSON" AND "FIFI'S PERSON" AND LEARN EACH OTHER'S REAL NAMES - NOW THAT WE'RE MARRIED, I MEAN.
COVERLY ©2023 SPEEDBUMP.COM DIST BY CREATORS 4-24

COMICS

LA CUCARACHA By Lalo Alcaraz

PIONEER ELEMENTARY
PROTECT STUDENTS FROM GUNS!
KIDS, HERE TO TALK TO US ABOUT GUN SAFETY IS LOCAL REPUBLICAN PARTY MEMBER PEDRO PISTOLAS!
THE GREATEST THREAT TO GUN SAFETY IS A CLASSROOM FULL OF CHILDREN!

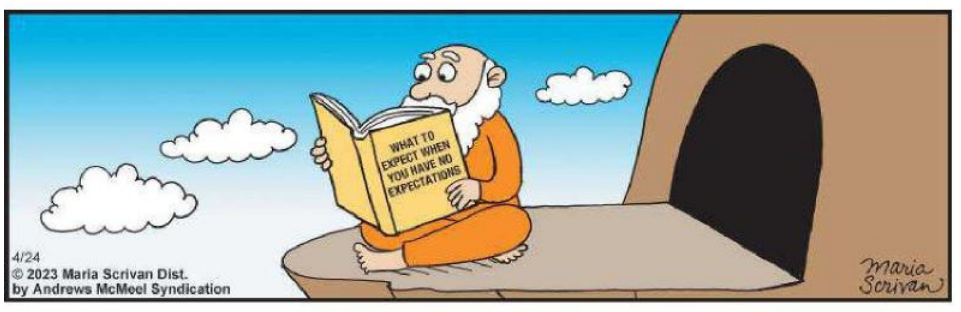
CRABGRASS By Tauhid Bondia

YOU MADE OUR CHILD RUN AWAY.
RUN AWAY?!
HE SNUCK OUT! THERE'S A DIFFERENCE!
OH, REALLY? BECAUSE--
...HANG ON. HE USED HIS CLOTHES TO MAKE THIS ROPE.
YOU DON'T THINK...
PSST! KEVIN!
OUT HERE!

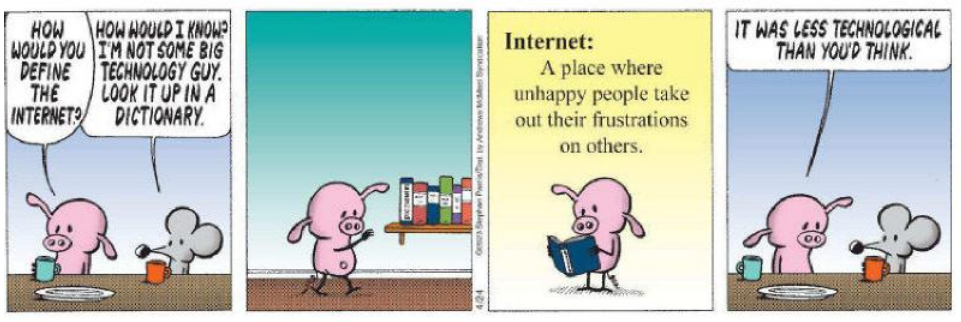
CANDORVILLE By Darrin Bell

WHAT IF I GET LOTHT?
FIND A POLICE OFFIC...
UM... SCRATCH THAT. FIND AN OLD LADY OR A WOMAN WHO HAS CHILDREN, AND ASK HER TO CALL ME.
WHY DID YOU THAY "POLICE OFFIC-UM-SCRATCH-THAT"?
I'LL TELL YOU IN ABOUT FIVE YEARS. YOU COULD ALSO KNOCK ON A NEIGHBOR'S DOO... UM... SCRATCH THAT.

HALF FULL By Maria Scrivan



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE By Stephan Pastis


HOW WOULD YOU DEFINE THE INTERNET?
HOW WOULD I KNOW? I'M NOT SOME BIG TECHNOLOGY GUY. LOOK IT UP IN A DICTIONARY.
Internet:
A place where unhappy people take out their frustrations on others.
IT WAS LESS TECHNOLOGICAL THAN YOU'D THINK.

LIO By Mark Tatulli

ZITS By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman

I HAD LUNCH WITH MY BUDDY PETE TODAY.
HE WAS POINTING OUT THE NUMBER OF "HELP WANTED" SIGNS WE PASSED ON THE WAY TO THE CAFE.
AND SUMMER JOB HARASSMENT SEASON BEGINS.
AND I SAID, "GOLLY, PETE! YOU'RE RIGHT!"

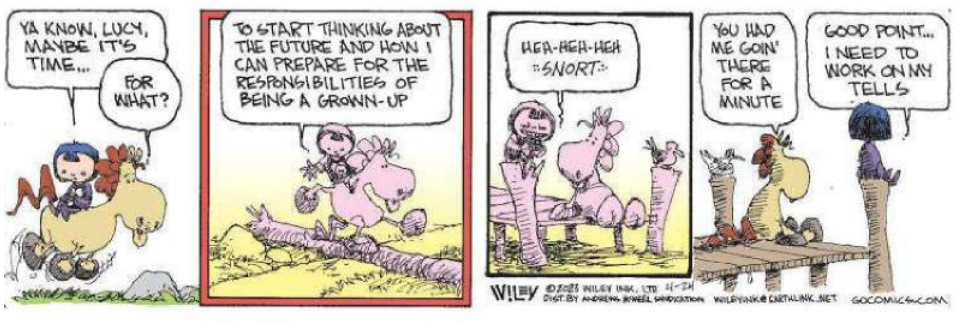
TUNDRA By Chad Carpenter

SIX CHIX By Isabella Bannerman

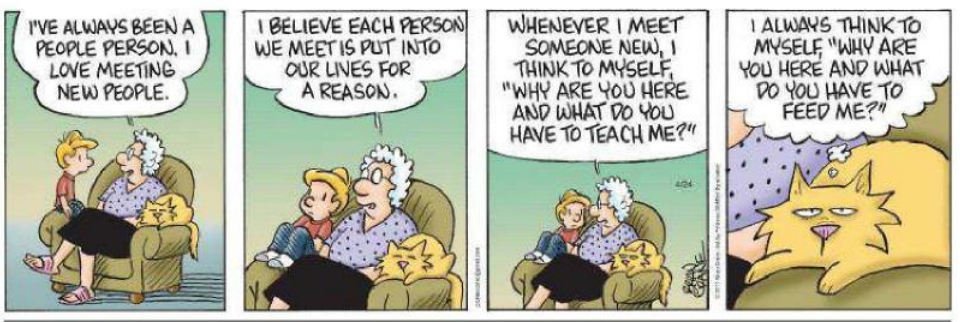
FRAZZ By Jef Mallett

ARE THERE ANY QUESTIONS?
WOULD YOU TAKE ADVICE ON PLANNING AHEAD...
...FROM SOMEONE WHO HAS TO GRAB THEIR MORNING COFFEE FROM A DRIVE-UP WINDOW?
ARE YOU ANTI-COFFEE OR ANTI-DRIVE-UP WINDOW?
I'M ANTI-COMFORTABLE MRS. OLSEN.
4-24
MALLETT

NON SEQUITUR By Wiley


YA KNOW, LUCY, MAYBE IT'S TIME...
FOR WHAT?
TO START THINKING ABOUT THE FUTURE AND HOW I CAN PREPARE FOR THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF BEING A GROWN-UP
HEH-HEH-HEH "SNORT"
YOU HAD ME GOIN' THERE FOR A MINUTE
GOOD POINT... I NEED TO WORK ON MY TELLS
WILEY

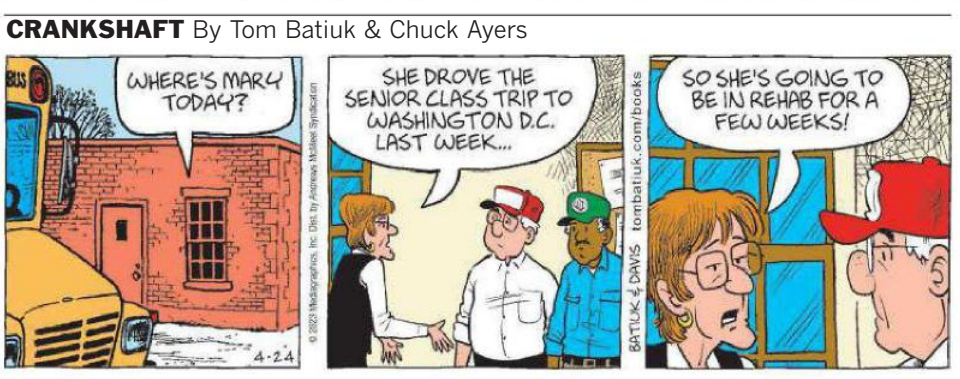
PICKLES By Brian Crane


I'VE ALWAYS BEEN A PEOPLE PERSON. I LOVE MEETING NEW PEOPLE.
I BELIEVE EACH PERSON WE MEET IS PUT INTO OUR LIVES FOR A REASON.
WHENEVER I MEET SOMEONE NEW, I THINK TO MYSELF, "WHY ARE YOU HERE AND WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO TEACH ME?"
I ALWAYS THINK TO MYSELF, "WHY ARE YOU HERE AND WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO FEED ME?"

BABY BLUES By Jerry Scott & Rick Kirkman

I HEARD THAT A HOUSE ON CACTUS DRIVE GOT ROBBED.
NO WAY.
YEP. THEY GOT EVERYTHING.
THAT'S THE BEAUTY OF US NOT OWNING VALUABLE STUFF.
YEAH, WE'RE ALWAYS ONE STEP AHEAD OF THE BAD GUYS.

CRANKSHAFT By Tom Batiuk & Chuck Ayers

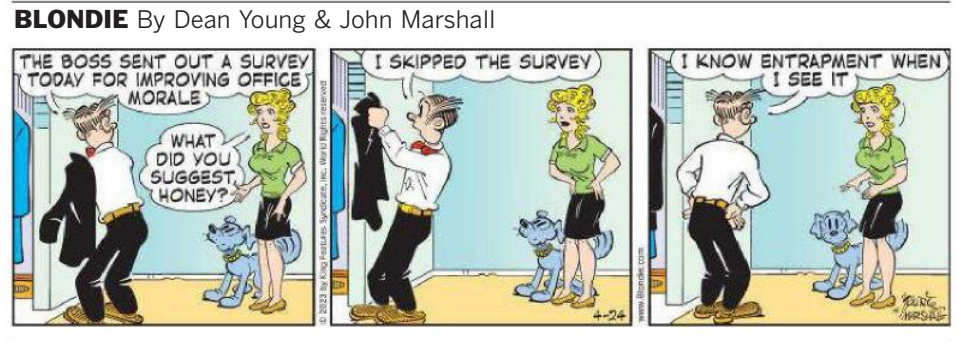

WHERE'S MARY TODAY?
SHE DROVE THE SENIOR CLASS TRIP TO WASHINGTON D.C. LAST WEEK...
SO SHE'S GOING TO BE IN REHAB FOR A FEW WEEKS!
4-24
BATIUK & DAVIS tombatiuk.com/books

JUMP START By Robb Armstrong

SMELL THAT, MARCY? SHE'S DOING IT AGAIN!
DANA IS BURNING A SCENTED CANDLE IN HER OFFICE?!
SNIFF!
SNIFF! GREEN APPLE GINGER.
I CAN'T BELIEVE SHE DIDN'T LEARN HER LESSON THE LAST TIME SHE BROKE THE RULES!
THAT'S BECAUSE NOBODY TAUGHT HER A LESSON THE LAST TIME!

MACANUDO By Liniers

BLONDIE By Dean Young & John Marshall


THE BOSS SENT OUT A SURVEY TODAY FOR IMPROVING OFFICE MORALE
WHAT DID YOU SUGGEST, HONEY?
I SKIPPED THE SURVEY
I KNOW ENTRAPMENT WHEN I SEE IT
4-24

BETWEEN FRIENDS By Sandra Bell-Lundy

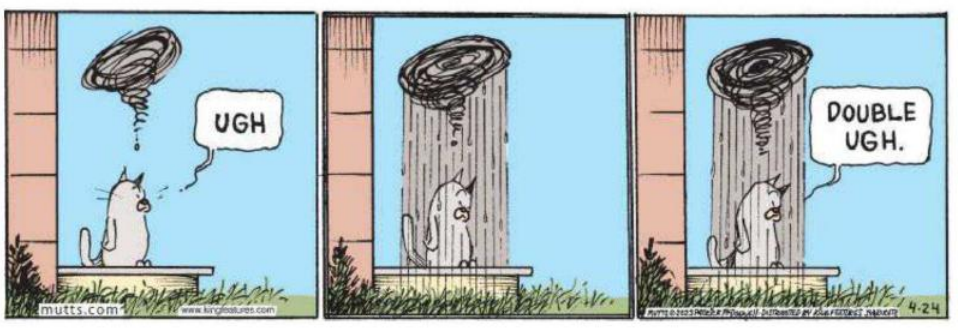
I DON'T LIKE THIS
THEN CHANGE IT
I CAN'T
ARE YOU SURE?
YES
THEN THE ONLY THING YOU CAN DO IS TO ACCEPT IT
I DON'T WANT TO ACCEPT IT
THAT'S SOMETHING YOU CAN CHANGE
4-24

BIZARRO By Wayno and Piraro

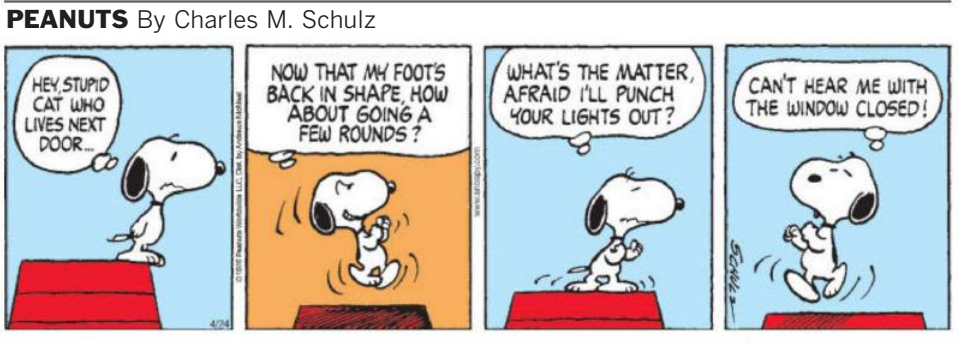
DRABBLE By Kevin Fagan

HAVE YOU NOTICED THAT CHARACTERS IN THIS COMIC STRIP DISAPPEAR SOMETIMES?
YEAH. THAT DOESN'T BOTHER ME.
IT'S WHEN THEY COME BACK YEARS LATER JUST TO STIR UP TROUBLE...
NEIL, WAIT... DID YOU SAY YOU'RE IN LOVE WITH A GIRL NAMED ECHO?!!
4-24-23

MUTTS By Patrick McDonnell



PEANUTS By Charles M. Schulz


HEY, STUPID CAT WHO LIVES NEXT DOOR...
NOW THAT MY FOOT'S BACK IN SHAPE, HOW ABOUT GOING A FEW ROUNDS?
WHAT'S THE MATTER, AFRAID I'LL PUNCH YOUR LIGHTS OUT?
CAN'T HEAR ME WITH THE WINDOW CLOSED!

MOVIE REVIEW

‘Joyland’ lays bare the complexity of desire

In Saim Sadiq’s strong debut, a family and a transgender dancer chafe against norms.

JUSTIN CHANG
FILM CRITIC

Oscilloscope Laboratories

ALI JUNEJO as Haider, left, and Alina Khan as Biba in director Saim Sadiq’s debut feature movie, “Joyland,” the story of a close-knit Muslim family, and the first Pakistani feature to be an official Cannes selection.

‘Joyland’

In Urdu and Punjabi with English subtitles.
Not rated

Running time: 2 hours, 6 minutes

Playing: AMC Burbank 16; Landmark’s Nuart Theatre, West Los Angeles

It’s one of the many resonant pleasures of “Joyland,” a visually arresting, politically forceful melodrama from Pakistan, that you’ll spend the early going figuring out exactly who its characters are — in and of themselves, and also in relation to each other.

There’s Haider (Ali Junejo), the mild-mannered young man we first see roughhousing with three kids (and hiding under a sheet that, in a slyly suggestive image, obscures his figure and gender). But as we soon realize, those girls aren’t his daughters; they’re his nieces. The tired-looking woman who’s just gone into labor isn’t his wife; she’s his sister-in-law, Nucchi (Sarwat Gilani), though with her husband nowhere in sight, it’s Haider who rushes her to the hospital to give birth to her fourth child.

There’s a subtext to all this confusion: Appearances can be deceptive, and individual roles are seldom as rigidly circumscribed as people would like to believe. That’s especially true of this close-knit Muslim family in Lahore, where three generations dwell under the same roof, two couples are tasked with providing for nine people and children are forever getting underfoot.

The father of those children is Haider’s older brother, Saleem (Sohail Sameer), a gruff, bullying upholder of the patriarchy and the closest thing “Joyland” has to an outright villain. Along with his aging, acerbic father (Salmaan Peerzada), Saleem sneers at Haider for being an unemployed househusband to his breadwinner wife, Mumtaz (Rasti Farooq), who happily works in a salon and has no desire for children.

But if Haider and Mumtaz’s marriage is an affront to familial expectations and social and religious norms, Saleem and the others aren’t above milking the benefits, namely Haider’s 24/7 availability as a babysitter to his nieces and caretaker to his father. That’s very much to the movie’s point, which is that a rigidly doctrinaire view of the world isn’t just oppressive or hypocritical, but impractical — a point that becomes ever clearer when Haider, unable to find “respectable” work, lands a job at a local erotic dance theater. Knowing how quick his family is to shame and judge, he tells them he’s been hired as a stage manager; in truth, he’s one of six background dancers for Biba (Alina Khan), a young transgender performer.

And as luck and drama would have it, Biba awakens something in Haider and in her audiences (us included) with her galvanic stage presence, her electrifying dance moves and her fearless indifference to the judgments of those around her.

“Joyland,” for its part, has been subjected to more than a few judgments since it premiered at the Cannes Film Festival last May. A strong debut for the writer-director Saim Sadiq, it was the first Pakistani feature ever to premiere in the festival’s official selection, and thus the first Pakistani feature to win two of the festival’s prizes. Months later, it became the first Pakistani entry to be shortlisted for the international feature Oscar, though it wasn’t ultimately nominated. Despite or perhaps because of these precedents, “Joyland” also became a predictable magnet for outrage and was briefly banned from Pakistani theaters last year for its “highly objectionable material” — or, to put it another way, its richly textured, effortlessly compassionate portrait of LGBTQ identity and desire.

But if its sympathies and its politics are unsurprising, the movie itself seldom lapses into obviousness. Haider’s yearning for Biba is intense and undeniable, especially in contrast with his affectionate but passionless marriage to Mumtaz. (That Haider and Mumtaz must constantly share a bed with one of their nieces doesn’t help.) But Haider’s sexuality isn’t given an easy label, and Biba, played with bracing intelligence by Khan, is finally too large a presence to be squeezed into the role of love interest or liberator. And I do mean large: The movie’s wittiest image finds Haider stashing an enormous cardboard cutout of Biba on his family’s rooftop, not realizing that his attempt at discretion will ultimately turn her into a literal queer-visibility poster child.

The backstage burlesque-hall shenanigans hold some interest, especially when Biba exchanges delicious insults with a rival performer or, in a rousing scene, rebukes the transphobia among her own dancers. But you’ll wait in vain for the moment when Haider’s double life as a silver-sequin-bedecked entertainer is humiliatingly exposed.

Notably, the real drama here plays out not onstage, but at home, a world whose deep, vibrant colors spring to life in cinematographer Joe Saade’s boxily framed, intricately shaded images. It’s here that the movie’s attention meaningfully shifts from the men to the women, from Haider to Mumtaz, as she’s forced to give up a job she loves and take over her husband’s domestic duties. Notably, her sexual frustration is treated with no less compassion in a movie that continually acknowledges the ferocity of female desire, especially in a society that would prefer it didn’t exist.

Women are this movie’s greatest source of fascination, whether it’s Biba, weaving her way through the margins of a society that refuses to make room for her, or Fayyaz (Sania Saeed), an emotionally neglected older neighbor who becomes, in her briefly seen interactions with the family, a figure of remarkable pathos. Most moving of all is the sister-in-law rapport between Nucchi and Mumtaz, terrifically played by Gilani and especially Farooq, as they come to understand each other in ways their husbands never will. The story’s most joyous sequence finds them on a ride at an amusement park (the one that gives the movie its title) and screaming in delight — a moment of pure, exhilarating yet tragically fleeting release.

An unflinching look at birth, loss

[**Weisz,** from E1]

Weisz, who played a hands-on role as an executive producer on the series. “The twins are so ambitious, and they have these very clear ideas about how to make things better, that I felt like I needed to make the case for imagining something different. We wanted the births to feel real and for those patients to feel like real women who walk in and out of clinics today.”

Strict realism and preachy didacticism are not the goals of this highly stylized remake (in a nod to the original, the doctors and nurses wear crimson scrubs), but in order for the story to work — and for both Beverly and Elliot’s competing visions to resonate as powerfully as they do — the medicine needed to be anchored in truth. “Dead Ringers” is one of a growing number of TV shows, including “This Is Going to Hurt” and “I Hate Suzie Too,” that resist the squeamishness that so often hampers depictions of women’s bodies to portray reproductive health with a radical form of candor.

“Women’s bodies have been politicized forever,” Birch said. “So I think the show would have felt timely whenever it was coming out.”

Still, at a moment when maternal mortality rates are rising along with restrictions on people’s ability to control when and if they become parents now that Roe vs. Wade has been overturned, Beverly’s tirade about the “f—” system that “bullies and scares and terrorizes and humiliates and ruins women and their bodies” is likely to strike many viewers as the least hyperbolic aspect of the entire series.

A fan of the Cronenberg film since she first saw it as a teenager, Weisz was intrigued by the “twisted, bizarre, codependent relationship” at its center, she said — one that could easily be switched and turned into two rich characters for her to portray: “There seemed to be no reason why one couldn’t have two female identical twins.”

The actor brought the idea for a remake to Annapurna Pictures and suggested Birch, whose TV credits include “Succession” and “Normal People,” to shepherd the adaptation.

Birch was excited about opening up the story by delving further into the twins’ work in obstetrics. In an early conversation with Weisz, Birch recalled a doctor who’d talked about choosing when life begins when they performed C-sections and described themselves in godlike fashion. “It seemed like that might be something that our twins would say,” she said.

The writers room, which consisted of seven women (including Weisz), became a venue for sharing stories about giving birth, visiting the gynecologist and other personal experiences that are now “part of the archaeological layers in the DNA of the whole project,” said Weisz.

The writers used Beverly and Elliot’s competing personalities to explore divergent approaches to women’s health. Beverly believes that pregnancy should be treated as a normal physical condition, not a disease — a philosophical descendant of Ina May Gaskin, the pioneering American midwife (even if her birthing center is much fancier than Gaskin’s famous Tennessee farm). Elliot, meanwhile, just wants a lab where she can play the role of maverick scientist and violate accepted norms with impunity, as she is already inclined to do.

To realize both their dreams, the Mantles turn to a wealthy benefactor named Rebecca (played by Jennifer Ehle) who has made a fortune selling opioids. (Similarities to the Sackler family are surely not coincidental.)

“Finding these people who would be literally the worst people for her to have to accept the money from enabled us to keep asking those really complicated questions,” said Birch.

Niko Tavernise Prime Video

IN ADDITION to playing dual roles, Rachel Weisz serves as an executive producer on “Dead Ringers.”

To better understand the medical and ethical ramifications of Elliot’s embryological experiments, the writers consulted scientists at the Francis Crick Institute in London. The production also enlisted a number of experts in reproductive medicine, including Barbara Sellars, a renowned New York City midwife, and Susan Grant, a recently retired OB-GYN who practiced at Lenox Hill Hospital in Manhattan, who offered feedback on scripts and were present on set when they were filming deliveries and other procedures.

Grant was called in to set “constantly,” she said. “You really need somebody who does it on a day-to-day basis to come in and say, ‘No, hold your hands this way.’ ‘The fetal heart rate would not be that number.’ I was really integrally involved. They wanted to get it right.”

She was struck by “the real female dominance essence and warmth” she encountered on location. (Directors on the series included Sean Durkin, Karyn Kusama, Karena Evans and Lauren Wolkstein.) For her part, Weisz was thrilled to be surrounded by experts who regaled her with their stories from the birthing trenches: “To sit and chat between takes with someone who spent their life delivering babies? It doesn’t get any better for me.”

Weisz also attended several births as part of her preparation for the series. “We know that it happens every second. It’s sort of the most ordinary thing that happens,” she said. “But to witness it feels completely extraordinary and miraculous and astonishing.”

Grant said one of the more challenging, if less bloody, scenes involved an effort to rotate a breech baby by applying manual pressure to a pregnant belly. Suturing was also tricky. But she was impressed by the research that Birch and the writers had already done. In one instance, she questioned the plausibility of an especially wrenching plot twist, only to have Birch cite an article about a nearly identical case.

The series is graphic — brace yourself for close-up shots of crowning babies — but it captures the power of being there when a new life enters the world, said Grant. “That’s the most amazing thing: when you see this giant head come out of a small vagina.”

The miracle of life, balanced on precipice of death

[**‘Ringers,’** from E1]

resulted in breakthroughs to medical problems that have historically been viewed as part of a woman’s burden.

The twins pair up with a morally bankrupt big pharma family to open a state-of-the-art birthing center that promises to put the well-being of women and their children ahead of all else. Well, everything *but* their warped relationship with each other.

Weisz’s nuanced performance as Elliot and Beverly is next-level brilliant. It’s hard to take your eyes off her, or them, as she imbues each twin with their own strengths and vulnerabilities, charms and tics, then artfully manipulates the conflict between the two, ratcheting up the tension with each episode, making it hard to turn away — even when you want to.

It’s a good thing Weisz is so magnetic, because there are plenty of repelling moments here for the queasy viewer.

Created and written by Alice Birch, “Dead Ringers” is a breakthrough show in terms of its realistic portrayals of childbirth, from vaginal deliveries where the camera is right between the mother’s legs, from the moment the baby crowns to its arrival, to aerial shots of cesarean sections performed on swollen bellies.

As hard as it may be for some folks (men) to witness, there is something quite profound and moving in these candid scenes of childbirth and loss, perhaps because we rarely see such detail on screen.

The familiar portrayal of movie and TV births routinely starts with her water breaking at an inopportune time (A ballgame! Corporate headquarters! How embarrassing!), then a mad dash to the hospital, and next thing we know, she’s a beaming new mom holding a “newborn” that’s portrayed by a startlingly large 8-month-old baby.

‘Dead Ringers’

Where: Prime Video
When: Anytime
Rated: 18+ (may be unsuitable for anyone under the age of 18 with advisories for substance abuse, smoking, alcohol use, nudity, violence, sex and coarse language)

But rarely witnessed are the realities and risk around conception and birth: the heartbreak and shame of not being able to conceive, the blood and grief of losing a pregnancy, the rigors of giving birth or the danger postpartum depression presents to the mother and child.

“House of the Dragon” notably went there in its opening episode, portraying in detail a complicated birth where the mother’s life was taken to save the child, and the child died anyway. Never mind that television’s bold step forward in infiltrating the secret lives of women arrived on the wings of a dungeons- and dragons-fueled fantasy. It was an indelible TV moment.

Set in present day, “Dead Ringers” takes it a step further, daring to show that no matter how advanced we believe ourselves to be, the miracle of life still balances on the precipice of death.

The drama and power plays between the twins sweeps all this realism into a twisty, unsettling narrative that’s at once darkly entertaining and dangerously unpredictable.

“Dead Ringers” is must-see TV, even when it’s hard to watch.